

Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe

Conference Programme

New Risks, Crime, Policing, Courts, Prisons and Security in the
Post-COVID-19 Times – Challenges and Opportunities





Faculty of
Criminal Justice and Security

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY IN CENTRAL
AND EASTERN EUROPE



Programme of the 15th Biennial International Conference Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe: New Risks, Crime, Policing, Courts, Prisons and Security in the Post-COVID-19 Times – Challenges and Opportunities

Time: 8–10 September 2025

Conference venue: City hotel, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Day 1, Monday, 8 September 2025

All sessions will be in Conference room 1

09.00–09.15 Opening of the Conference and Welcome Addresses

Chair: Katja Eman

Igor Bernik, Dean of the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor

Dean Korošak, Vice-rector for Science and research, University of Maribor

09.15–09.20 Award Presentation

Igor Bernik and Gorazd Meško

09.20–09.40 On the Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe Conference – 15 International Biennial Conferences Held So Far (1996–2025)

On the Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe Conferences
Gorazd Meško

09.40–10.30 Plenary Session I. – Living in a Fast-Changing World Full of Uncertainties

Chair: Rok Hacin

Abrupt Changes and Long-Term Transformations

Josip Rastko Močnik

Unpacking the Security Discourse and Perceptions of Threats in Western Societies

Aleš Bučar Ručman

Discussant: Zoran Kanduč

10.30–10.50 Break (A group photo)

10.50–11.35 Plenary Session II. – Comparative Criminology, Criminal Justice and Security Studies

Chair: Katja Eman

Security Fields Pre- and Post-COVID-19: Some Conceptual, Empirical and Practical Challenges

Matt Bowden

The Changing Security Sector – Decentralised, Pluralised and Privatised but Still Effective and Accountable?

Andrej Sotlar

11.35–12.45 Lunch Break

12.45–14.05 Plenary Session III. – Criminal Justice Research, Policymaking and Practice

Chair: Katja Eman

Bridging the Gap between Police Science and Police Practice: Police Leaders' Perspective

Krunoslav Borovec, Sanja Kutnjak Ivković

Different Stakeholders in Assessing the Performance, Efficiency, and Quality of Police Organizations

Branko Lobnikar

A Comparative Approach to Policing During the COVID-19 Pandemic: On Experiences and Lessons Learned

Sanja Kutnjak Ivković

Discussant: John A. Eterno

14.05–14.20 Break

14.20–15.20 Plenary Session IV. – Cyber Criminology and Cyber Security

Chair: Anže Mihelič

The Cybercrime Ecosystem: The Challenges of New Pathways into Cybercrime

David Wall

Advanced Cybersecurity: The Interaction in the Future Digital Society, Digital Inclusion, and Cyber Resilience

Igor Bernik

Discussant: Uroš Svete

15.20–15.35 Break

15.35–16.55 Plenary Session V. – Criminal Investigation – The Central Theme of Policing?

Chair: Danijela Frangež

The Role and Reliability of Forensic Techniques in Criminal Investigation

Željko Karas

Criminal Investigation in the Digital Age – Gathering and Handling Electronic Evidence

Benjamin Flander

Criminal Investigation in Slovenia: Challenges, Best Practices and Emerging Threats

Danijela Frangež

Discussant: Mitja Jager

16.55–17.05 Break

17.05–18.05 Plenary Session VI. – Green Criminology and Protection of the Environment I.

Chair: Katja Eman

Crimes that Affect the Environment and Security

Tanya Wyatt

CRIMEATE: A Tri-continental Study Mapping the Climate-Crime Nexus in Rural India, Brazil, and South Africa

Beulah Shekhar, Ameenul Abdullah KS

Green Criminology Goes Rural – Have Environmental Crimes and Harms in Rural Communities Been Ignored in the Past?

Katja Eman

18.05–19.00 Denver, Colorado, ACJS 2025: Through the Eyes of Criminal Justice and Security Students

Matej Enci, Alen Golobič, Tine Mesarič, Kiti Skočir

19.15–21.30 Reception hosted by Dean Igor Bernik

Day 2, Tuesday, 9 September 2025

Conference room 1

09.00–10.30 Plenary Session VII. – Green Criminology and Protection of the Environment II.

Chair: Katja Eman

Greening Justice: Ecojustice and Remediating Environmental Harm

Angus Nurse

Regulating Plastic Rivers: A Study of Microplastic Pollution and Regulatory Deficits in India's Freshwater Systems

Richa Mishra, Debarati Halder, Nidhi Singh

Impact of Organized Environmental Criminal Groups on the Safety of Slovenia

Benjamin Franca

Green Criminology and Peacetime Activities of the Slovenian Armed Forces

Katja Eman, Gorazd Meško

10.30–10.35 Break

Conference room 1

10.35–11.15 Plenary session VIII. – Comparative Criminology in Europe

Chair: John A. Eterno

European Comparative Criminology: Bridging Insights between Western and Central/Eastern Regions

Marcelo F. Aebi

An Overview of Research on Legitimacy and Self-legitimacy in Slovenian Police and Prisons

Rok Hacin

11.15–11.30 Break

11.30–12.35 Panels I.–III.

Conference room 1

Panel I. – Legal Perspectives of Criminal Justice and Security

Chair: Bojan Tičar

Implementation of GDPR in Slovenian Higher Education

Mojca Tancer Verboten, Kristina Pavli, Miha Dvojmoč

Dusk of Lay Judges in Czech Criminal Proceedings?

David Čep

Confiscation of Unexplained Wealth – Necessity or Threat?

Jan Provazník

Transition of Petty Crimes into Misdemeanours Against Public Order

Bojan Tičar, Gal Pastirk, Andreja Primec

Conference room 2

Panel II. – Deviance, Delinquency, Crime and Crime Prevention I.

Chair: Branko Lobnikar

Different Faces of Victimization of Asian Migrant Workers in Croatia

Sanja Kutnjak Ivković, Valerio Baćak, Irena Cajner Mraović, Krunoslav Borovec, Marica Marinović Golubić, Ivan Perković

Modus Operandi of Serial Killers: A Criminal Psychology Perspectives

Paweł Ożga

Mobile Apps as Tools for Preventing Sexual Violence in Nightlife

Tinkara Bulovec, Katja Eman

Measuring Elder Abuse in Slovenia: Insights from Caregivers' Perspectives

Teja Primc, Branko Lobnikar, Kaja Prislan Mihelič

Conference room 3

Panel III. – Deviance, Delinquency, Crime and Crime Prevention II.

Chair: Vanja Erčulj

Integrity and Independence of Criminal Justice in Western Balkans

Uglješa Ugi Zvekić, Ioannis Vlassis

Hand Car Washes as Locations of Modern Slavery in England

James Hunter

Drawing Conclusions Using the iSquare Protocol to Examine Public Attitudes Toward Sex Offenders

Sasha Goodwin

Attitudes Towards Intimate Partner Violence: Gender and Environmental Differences in Slovenia

Vanja Erčulj

12.35–14.00 Lunch Break

14.00–15.30 Panels IV.–VI.

Conference room 1

Panel IV. – Security, Private and Corporate Security

Chair: Anže Mihelič

Evaluation of the Local Challenges in Predicting Large–Scale Security Events

Anže Mihelič, Dejan Lavbič, Sandi Gec

The Future of Private Security in Slovenia: What the Science Says?

Andrej Sotlar, Miha Dvojmoč, Maja Modic, Bernarda Tominc

Training Active Shooter Response in Non-US Jurisdictions: Bosnia and Herzegovina

J. Pete Blair, Amer Smailbegović, Andrew Brown

Providing Active Shooter Response Training to Civilians and Educational Institutions

Amer Smailbegović, J. Pete Blair, Mirzo Selimić

Cross-Sectoral Cooperation Approach as a Crisis Management Solution

Dejan Pavlović, Valentina Kubale Dvojmoč, Miha Dvojmoč

The Recurrent Ritualisation of Surveillance in India: Anatomising the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

Konina Mandal

Conference room 2

Panel V. – Prisons and Penal Sanctions

Chair: Rok Hacin

The Roles of Offenders in THB in Greece: Prison Insights

Christiana Aposkiti, Alexandros Arfaras, Freideriki Makri, Dimitris Androulakis, Anastasios Valvis

Improving Prison Quality of Life Through Security Staff-Prisoner Relations

Teodora Gojković, Olivera Pavićević

Institutional Factors and Support in Prison Security Climate in Serbia

Milena Milićević

Prison and Probation: Media Narratives in the Croatian Context

Martina Pleško

A Comprehensive Review of Legitimacy Studies in the Prison Environment

Zala Osterc, Gorazd Meško, Rok Hacin

Existing Problems and New Challenges for the Croatian Prison System

Marija Đuzel

Conference room 3

Panel VI. – Deviance, Criminology of Place & Cyber Criminology

Chair: Yarin Eski

Data First Project: Linked Administrative Justice Data Research Opportunities and Policy Insights

Andromachi Tseloni

Behind Closed Gates: Thefts and Burglaries in Polish Rural Communities

Emilia Jurgielewicz-Delegacz

Scam Cities: Criminal Hubs in Transnational Cybercrime Networks

Sara Lilli, Maria Vittoria Zucca

Judicial Conviction and Electronic Criminal Evidence Framework: A Comparative Analysis of Indonesia and the Netherlands

Anton Hendrik Samudra, Subhajit Basu

To the Moon and Back. A Critical Space Criminological Perspective on Serbo-Chinese Collaboration in Lunar Missions

Yarin Eski, Geert Luteijn

15.45–18.30 A City Tour – Crime Mapping of Ljubljana – “Crime” Hot Spots (A Criminological Experience in the City)

Day 3, Wednesday, 10 September 2025

10.00–11.30 Panels VII.–IX.

Conference room 1

Panel VII. – Deviance, Delinquency, Crime, Crime Prevention III.

Chair: Iza Kokoravec Povh

Violence Against Parents by Adult Children

Monika Klun, Aleš Bučar Ručman, Danijela Frangež

Gender, Violence & Social Stress: England & Wales, 1977–2020

Emily Gray, Stephen Farall, Andromachi Tseloni

Juvenile Delinquency’s Risk Factors in the Post COVID-19 Times

Gordana Lažetić, Elena Mujoska Trpevska

Asking for Help in an Online Community

Tinkara Pavšič Mrevlje, Vanja Erčulj

Patterns of Victimization Among Rural and Urban Juveniles

Iza Kokoravec Povh, Ineke Haen Marshall, Gorazd Meško

Conference room 2

Panel VIII. – Legal and Criminal Justice Perspectives on Criminal Justice and Security

Chair: Silvo Grčar

Confidentiality vs. Transparency in Criminal Procedure: Croatia's New Disclosure Offence in a European Context

Igor Martinović

Transparency in Police Investigations: Comparative Models and ECtHR Practice

Iva Parenta

Criminal Law Responses to Environmental Offences in the Republic of Serbia

Aleksandar Stevanović

Environmental Crime of the Armed Forces in the Republic of Slovenia

Silvo Grčar, Andrej Sotlar, Katja Eman

Conference room 3

Panel IX. – Policing, Criminal Investigation and Victim/Witness Protection

Chair: Boštjan Slak

Criminal Intelligence: Insights from U.S. and Implications for Slovenia

Boštjan Slak

Procedural Protection of Witnesses of Rape in War Crimes

Adnan Jusufspahić, Vildana Kubat

Crime, Policing, and Voter Turnout in Chicago's 2023 and 2019 Mayoral Elections

Bill McCarthy, John Hagan, Daniel Herda

Revisiting Investigation: Nuances of Preliminary Inquiry under Indian Criminal Procedure

Konina Mandal

11.30–11.45 Break

Conference room 1

11.45–12.30 Final Plenary – Between Science, Policy and Practice

Chair: John A. Eterno

The Rift between Science and Policy and How to Overcome It

Chris Eskridge

Comparative, Translational and Public Criminology

Gorazd Meško, John A. Eterno

12.30–13.45 Roundtable – Future of the Criminal Justice and Security Studies, Policy Making and Practice in Central and Eastern Europe

Chair: Gorazd Meško

Participants: Marcelo F. Aebi, Igor Bernik, John A. Eterno, Danijela Frangež, Richa Mishra

13.45–14.00 Closing of the conference

Gorazd Meško and Katja Eman



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