

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Perspectives of Rural Safety,
Security and Rural Criminology

Book of Abstracts

Gorazd Meško
Bojan Dobovšek
Bernarda Tominc
EDITORS



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Faculty of
Criminal Justice and Security

Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe

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KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS



IF YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE, LEAVE A LEGACY" – RURAL CRIMINOLOGY'S FUTURE IN A CENTURY NO LONGER NEW

JOSEPH DONNERMEYER

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Abstract The American poet, activist and Pulitzer Prize winner, Maya Angelou (1928–2014), once wrote: “If you’re going to live, leave a legacy.” In this presentation, the emergence of rural criminology is briefly reviewed as a way to discuss its future prospects. Specifically, this presentation will consider several significant issues for rural criminology’s continued growth and for its prospects for informing the next generation of scholars who may be interested in rural crime studies. These include: a firm focus on examining the intersectionality of rurality with various criminological and criminal justice issues; continued development of a comparative, international approach to the study of rural crime; engaging in more self-critical dialogue about rural criminological theories and research methods; and examining several important rural criminological issues likely to emerge over the next several decades of the 21st century, including, among others, access to justice amongst rural peoples and communities.

Keywords:

rural
criminology,
access to
justice,
criminological
theory,
intersectionality



A PROJECT ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY IN RURAL SETTINGS IN SLOVENIA – TOWARDS RURAL CRIMINOLOGY

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Abstract The paper presents the main ideas, discussions, and preliminary findings of a research project on Local safety and security – a comparison between rural and urban (2019–2024) conducted by fifteen researchers of the Institute of Criminal Justice and Security and headed by the author of this contribution and financed by the Slovenian Research Agency. The project is based on ideas of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SGDs), UNDP ideas on resilient communities and human security, tradition of safety and security provision in Slovenia based on community policing, local safety and security partnerships, and recent ideas of rural criminology. A research focus has changed from urban to rural due to findings that social processes, social control, crime patterns and responses to crime differ in rural and urban settings. These perspectives will be presented and discussed.

Keywords:

safety,
security,
local
communities,
rural,
urban



CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON POLICING RURAL ENVIRONMENTS: COPS, CONTEXT, COMMUNICATION AND COVID-19

ANDREW WOOFF

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Abstract Recent work on policing in rural communities has highlighted the importance of reflecting critically on the context and environment being policed. Research has pointed to the importance of police discretion, order maintenance and police-community relationships in rural policing, while acknowledging that rural communities are not monolithic and are impacted by external factors. Policing in Scotland has undergone significant changes over the past decade, with eight police forces being amalgamated in 2013 to form a single police force, Police Scotland. Furthermore, with large societal changes, including the COVID-19 pandemic, rural communities have also undergone significant transitions in the way that they interact with law enforcement. This has led to shifting priorities which has impacted on police, community and partnership relationships in rural communities. Not only has this led to a reorganisation of how policing is done in Scotland, but it has also impacted on the way rural communities are policed and the context of social control in these locations. Consideration of the critical and conceptual framing of rural policing is therefore important. Drawing on lessons from Scotland, this paper will utilise data from three funded projects examining different rural policing contexts. Applying theories of ‘abstract policing’ (Terpstra et al, 2019) and ‘totality of rural space’ (Halfacree, 2006), this paper will explore lessons for rural policing in other locations. It will highlight the importance of understanding the community context, the impact of COVID-19 on the policing of rural communities and the importance of visible policing and communication for rural communities going forward.

Keywords:

rural policing,
relationships,
COVID-19,
context,
communication

PERCEPTION OF RURAL (IN)SECURITY AND (UN)SAFETY AMONG URBAN AND RURAL POPULATIONS IN SLOVENIA

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Abstract The growing "disillusionment" and doubts about the "progressiveness" of the modernization of society have intensified the debate on the once almost forgotten rural-urban dichotomy, which has recently acquired a rather rich new content. From the perspective of reflexive and critical sociology, Kieran Bonner in *A Great Place to Raise Kids* (1997) proposes to approach the debate on this conceptual dichotomy not from the point of view of static, predetermined, categorically limited considerations, but from the perspective of the reflexive thoughts of the actors interpreting their living environment by themselves, starting from the question of where it is better/safer to live, in the countryside or the city. In line with the proposed epistemological line of research, the proposed paper presents the results of interviews conducted in winter 2016 with 120 people of both genders and different generations living in different spatial contexts in Slovenia (city, town, village, remote house). They were asked where they would prefer to live and spend their youth, middle age, and old age, as well as which type of place whether rural or urban they consider safer/securer and why. The analysis and interpretation of their answers are valuable contributions to the debate on rural crime and for assessing the reliability of existing crime statistics.

Keywords:

security/safety,
rural-urban
dichotomy,
perceptions,
sociology,
Slovenia

CRIME AND SOCIAL CONTROL IN RURAL AREAS OF SOUTHERN RUSSIA

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Abstract Russian criminology traditionally takes the stand that criminality is inherent to the cities where diverse methods of public security enforcement and crime prevention programs should be tested and implemented. However, there are regions in the Russian Federation where agricultural lands represent 63,8% of the territory and 60% of the population reside in the countryside. The southern Russian region provides 45% of the gross rural production of the Russian Federation altogether while agricultural regions are distinguished by particular features: a distance of the rural settlements from each other and the regional centres; weak transport connection between regions; inefficient development of the telecommunication networks; seasonal production; remoteness of the police stations; weak protection of goods compared to the cities; easiness of cultivation of illegal drugs; and ample amounts of homemade alcohol. All of this makes an impact on the lifestyle and the behaviour of the rural inhabitants including criminal behaviour. In order to understand how to ensure the public security of the population of the rural areas, it is necessary to study the state, structure, dynamics and other criminological features of the criminality in the countryside; traits of the criminal's personality; reasons and conditions of crimes. The abovementioned analysis allows assessing the level of the public security enforcement and the efficiency of the prevention activity of the law enforcement bodies in the rural areas of Southern Russia.

Keywords:

rural
crime,
social
control,
policing,
rural,
south
region,
Russia

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND GIS IN RURAL CRIMINOLOGY

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Abstract In this talk, I discuss the use of geographical information (GI), in particular Geographical Information Systems (GIS), in rural criminological research. This is a relevant topic because knowing where crime takes place or how it is distributed over time and space can be important to understanding its nature and helping experts tackle it. I will start by reporting a number of examples from the current literature, from a risk map of drug-related crimes to remote-sensing data in the investigation of environmental and wildlife crimes. Given the nature of rural environments and the legacy of Cartesian mapping traditions, we highlight the main challenges of using GIS in rural criminology research, suggesting that the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. I finalize the presentation by reaching forward to what lies ahead in terms of research frontiers.

Keywords:

offences,
mapping,
spatial data
analysis,
countryside,
environmental
criminology



FEATURED PRESENTATION:

**THE SITUATION THAT CHANGED
EVERYTHING – COVID-19
AND POLICING**



A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE ON POLICING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract When the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March of 2020, the World Health Organization issued a call to the countries to take an urgent and aggressive action to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Within a month, more than one-half of the world's population has been ordered to stay home by their governments. Police agencies across the world had to adjust to this new world. On the one hand, the police had to protect themselves and limit their contact with the public, while, on the other hand, they had to provide the necessary police services and respond to the calls for service. In addition to the usual police responsibilities, the police have been charged with the task of enforcing the newly enacted COVID-19 governmental measures, often with the lack of clear guidelines and adequate police training. Based on the survey of police executives conducted in the summer of 2020, this paper explores organizational and operational changes conducted by the police from 15 European countries. The paper focuses not only on whether things have changed but also on how much things have changed. In addition, the paper explores potential consequences police executives think these changes may have had both on their ability to provide effective police services and the level of public support.

Keywords:
COVID-19,
police
changes,
Europe

**GLOBAL INITIATIVE ROUNDTABLE
ON PUBLISHING IN
SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS**



PUBLISHING IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE JOURNALS

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Abstract This roundtable discussion is specifically aimed at early career researchers who are looking to expand their international publication focus. It brings together a broad array of international experience in order to provide insights to researchers from the region about how to target and work with top-class journals and ensure their work receives scholarly recognition and wide readership. The roundtable will begin with semi-formal presentations and insights by colleagues who are editors of major journals or have published extensively in international journals. This will be followed by a free-flowing open discussion and Q&A with the audience about the ideas addressed. The roundtable will be co-hosted by the Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology, the Journal of Illicit Economies and Development (JIED), LSE Press and the Balkan Criminology Network.

Keywords:

journals,
academic
publishing,
illicit
economies,
development,
criminology

**ORGANISED CRIME AND
CORRUPTION – GLOBAL INITIATIVE
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL
ORGANISED CRIME**



CORRUPTION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

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Abstract The presentation concerns civil society monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption pledges made at the London Summit of the Berlin Process in 2018 (GI TOC). It assesses anti-corruption efforts in the Western Balkan Six countries (WB6) based on the analysis provided by anti-corruption experts from the WB6 who examined corruption and its impact on governance in each country of the region and reviewed anti-corruption frameworks as well as government efforts to tackle corruption. The centrepiece is how the governments of the six countries are implementing their anti-corruption pledges made in the context of the Berlin Process. Since the pledges are based on existing commitments made in other multilateral forums, and not all of these commitments are covered by the anti-corruption pledges made in the context of the Berlin Process, the presentation also looks more broadly at anti-corruption commitments made by the WB6 governments and how they have been reported on by the European Commission, the Group of States against Corruption (the Council of Europe's anti-corruption monitoring body), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism, and Transparency International. To facilitate analysis, the anti-corruption commitments are divided into three categories: 1) Economic criteria (comprising public-private partnership, public procurement, tax, beneficial ownership information and extractive industries); 2) Political criteria (whistle-blower protection, enforcement capabilities, media, institutional integrity, anti-corruption education and transparency initiatives); and 3) Compliance with EU legislation (asset-recovery legislation and the international system).

Keywords:

anti-corruption pledges, Western Balkan, GI TOC Reports, Berlin process, organized corruption

STRONGER TOGETHER: BOLSTERING RESILIENCE AMONG CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

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Abstract More than 200 civil society organisations work to strengthen local resilience against organised crime and corruption in the Western Balkans Six. Their efforts are necessary and significant, especially given the ecosystem of crime in the region which facilitates illicit activities to flourish. However, the space for civil society in the Western Balkans is shrinking. Organisations are under pressure from local governments and increasingly report security concerns. Especially organizations in smaller towns and villages, where there are few resilience actors, often feel exposed. This paper looks at organised crime and corruption in the Western Balkans from a civil society perspective and provides an overview of how civil society organisations are active against the illicit economy. It identifies and maps civil society organisations that fight organised crime and corruption geographically, describes their activities as well as highlights their main challenges and concerns. It also outlines perceptions of organised crime and corruption in their local communities and identifies promising practices. In doing so, it also explores how civil society can strengthen resilience. Research is based primarily on data gathered through more than 110 interviews with civil society activists and journalists.

Keywords:

civil
society,
organised
crime,
corruption,
illicit
economy,
resilience,
Western
Balkans

THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN CRIME PREVENTION IN RURAL AREAS

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Abstract According to the most recent research conducted by the Global Initiative (GI-TOC), in the Western Balkan region there are more than 100,000 CSOs, yet around 1% of them deal with organized crime and corruption. Only in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there are currently more than 25,000 CSOs registered, and about 15% of them are based in rural areas. But the level of crime in rural areas is constantly increasing, even some smaller places have become recognizable by certain types of crime. In BiH, CSOs are often the only ones that point out certain social anomalies and try to act preventively on the spread of phenomena such as crime, violence, extremism, etc. Due to lack of opportunities and youth unemployment, young people often decide to join criminal groups or engage in illicit activities on their own. Youth are left to fend for themselves, they often end up in prison or some are even killed. There is a need for a stronger presence of CSOs in rural areas in order to prevent criminal acts and phenomena related to domestic violence or juvenile violence. It is necessary to present the issues that CSOs are dealing with within their work, especially in the time of pandemic COVID-19. This paper will explore the representation of CSOs in rural areas, and will provide insights on the most effective methods of CSOs to crime prevention in rural areas. The author will propose specific actions for CSOs in rural areas in BiH to effectively contribute to countering organized crime.

Keywords:
organized
crime,
rural
areas,
civil
society
organisations,
crime
prevention

GATEWAYS TO CRIMINAL MARKETS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

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Abstract Organised crime and corruption in the Western Balkans are a serious threat to the rule of law and stability to the region. Political tension between countries, poor economic performance, and a high level of corruption enable a fertile ground for organised crime to flourish. The region's location along main trafficking routes from the east to the west is also a contributing factor. But why are some places in the region more vulnerable to organized crime than others? This presentation will look at hotspots of organized crime in the Western Balkans and show how most are characterized by socio-economic vulnerability, a location attractive for smuggling, and weak governance. Drawing on the trilogy of "hotspots" reports by the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, the presentation will also look at hotspots of Western Balkans organised crime groups outside the region, including Western Europe, Latin America and South Africa.

Keywords:

criminal
markets,
hotspots,
organised
crime,
Western
Balkans

ORGANISED CRIME IN SLOVENIAN RURAL ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract Organised crime is a changing concept, and organised crime groups survive and operate in all environmental and societal settings. When examining where organised crime groups are making the bulk of their profits, urban settings are predominating, however rural settings (environment) play an essential role as well. In rural areas, organised crime groups can acquire their products (e.g., cannabis plantations and laboratories hidden on farms or fields). Those products can then be smuggled in-or-out of the country through the green border. Besides products, people are smuggled via the same routes, including human trafficking victims (e. g., women that are later forced into prostitution). Data on organised crime offences [OCO] in Slovenia (5,349 in total for the period 2009–2019; of which we have location data for 85% 4549 offences) shows that most of the OCO (61%) were recorded in settlements that have the status of a city. When examining individual years, data is widely dispersed with percentage for OCO recorded in non-city thus rural setting ranging the lowest 17% in 2015 to highest 65% in 2017, which is the only year when most OCOs were recorded in the rural and not in city settlements. The average percentage in the monitored period of OCO recorded in rural settlements is 38%, and this indicates that in Slovenia, organised crime groups prefer to operate in an urban setting. However, future and more in-depth studies should be made regarding the role of rural settings and organised crime in Slovenia.

Keywords:

organised
crime,
rural
area,
urban
settlement,
green
border,
trends

CYBERSECURITY PERSPECTIVES



SECURITY CHANGES FOR CYBERSPACE USERS DURING COVID-19

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Abstract The use of cyberspace changed during COVID-19. The work has been transferred from a safe physical work environment to a homework environment, and the work is performed remotely. In addition, the technologies used are no longer under the (security) supervision of the company's information technology experts. There is a security issue of controlling technology, running workflows, and accessing data and information of great value or requiring privacy protection. The article presents the causes of change, user responses and guidelines for the safe work of users in cyberspace. The paper contributes to understanding the current situation, gives an overview of the safe use of cyberspace, and an understanding of the dangers for cyberspace users.

Keywords:

cyberspace,
cyber,
security,
users,
approach,
COVID-19



SMART GRID CYBERSECURITY

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Abstract Ensuring the cybersecurity of smart grids as part of a country's critical infrastructure is an important factor that requires organizations to establish modern cybersecurity mechanisms. The interconnection of smart grids and the integrated use of modern information and communication technologies represent great security and functional challenge for organizations in protecting their information assets. The methods, used in the paper, are based on the study of professional and scientific literature in the field of cybersecurity of smart grids using primary and secondary sources and empirical research conducted in two organizations, representatives of the critical infrastructure sector of the Republic of Slovenia. Based on the collected data and their analyses, the aim of the paper is to identify and study factors that affect the importance of cybersecurity mechanisms that the organization must take into account when implementing smart grids. The limitation of this empirical research is the focus on only the studied part of the critical infrastructure sector and consequent failure to be fully generalized to other segments of critical infrastructure in the Republic of Slovenia due to the specifics of each critical infrastructure segment. Presented data are useful for the studied organization, which can take additional measures to increase their cybersecurity resilience against cyber-hybrid attacks on smart grids. Countering modern cyber-hybrid threats in today's world requires organizations to establish modern cybersecurity mechanisms that must be able to protect smart grids and must be taken into account by national security policymakers at a national level.

Keywords:

smart
grids,
information and
communication
technologies,
cyberspace,
cyberthreats,
cybersecurity

CYBER THREATS IN SLOVENIAN URBAN AND RURAL ENVIRONMENTS

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Abstract Cybercrime presents an ever-growing security and safety issue for the online population globally and locally. Hence, cyber victimization studies are important for understanding cybercrime-related issues and trends. The aim is to present the influence of the residential setting on cyber-victimization. The study focuses on cyber-victimization among general users in Slovenian rural and urban environments. Surveying took place in the winter months of 2019 in the form of a questionnaire. The sample comprised 1,157 residents from all 12 statistical regions in Slovenia. Findings show that residents in urban and rural environments most often use the computer for random and intentional web browsing. In the last 12 months, approximately a quarter of them became a victim of a fake email message that contained infected attachment or pop-ups that required re-entering of the username or password. Residents in both environments were most worried about receiving a fake email message that contained an infected attachment or becoming a victim of an online shopping scam. Results of the discriminant analysis show that statistically significant differences exist between residents' perception of control over their victimization, while no statistically significant differences were found in their perception of possible victimization and consequences of victimization in cyberspace. Residents who live in urban areas felt more confident regarding their control over becoming a victim of cyber threats.

Keywords:

cyber
threats,
victimization,
fear,
rural,
urban,
environment,
Slovenia

PLURAL POLICING



RESIDENTS ATTITUDES TOWARDS PLURAL POLICING INSTITUTIONS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO SECURITY: COMPARISON BETWEEN THE URBAN AND RURAL ENVIRONMENT IN SLOVENIA

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Abstract Policing modern societies is not the responsibility of the public/state police organization alone. Besides state and local police, there are organisations, which were not established to police, but their tasks, nature of work, and special powers make them “new police forces.” In recent decades, we have witnessed that many other state/public, local, and private institutions have begun to perform the tasks of ensuring safety. They were granted special security and safety-related powers that are greater than those of ordinary citizens. By a common term, we can refer to them as plural policing institutions. Public opinion on the (plural) policing institutions in democratic societies is essential, as it is one of the critical indicators of the legitimacy of these institutions and the public-private policing model. However, it should be noted that, compared to the increasing volume of research on public perceptions of police work, trust in other institutions of plural policing is rare. In the paper, the authors are presenting the results of a study conducted among residents in Slovenia (n = 1,105) on their attitude towards plural policing institutions. Furthermore, it also compares the residents' views on these institutions' contributions to security in local communities according to the urbanisation level of their residence (rural vs. urban).

Keywords:

plural
policing,
security and
safety,
public-private
policing
model,
public
perceptions



THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MUNICIPAL OR INTER-MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA AND HUNGARY

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Abstract The paper analyzes the characteristics of Municipal or Intermunicipal Police Department in the Municipalities in Slovenia and Hungary, with emphasis on comparing the municipalities of both European Union members and compiling a list of guidelines for the work of Municipal police departments. In terms of local security, a wide range of municipal police department's work and normative characteristics will be taken into account and checked for both countries. In order to show the actual status of Slovenia's and Hungary's municipal police departments and carrying out a more detailed survey of their work, comprising from the normative overview and the way of working, relations between municipal or inter-municipal police departments and other law policyming subjects, systemization of tasks, education and training, financing, uniform, powers, control and controlling subjects etc. The paper, prepared according to the methods of qualitative reports analysis and comparative analysis, upgrades Slovenia's research on a topic of Municipal police department in the fields of powers and sanctioning offences at the local level, in addition to comparing it to the neighbouring country of Hungary. The paper provides an overview of the work of Municipal or Intermunicipal Police Department of two European Union members and offers guidelines for the effective work of Municipal police departments, based on the findings deriving from the detailed survey of the current departmental work characteristics and intercountry comparison.

Keywords:

municipal
police,
department,
characteristics,
Hungary,
Slovenia,
comparison

**VIOLENCE IN THE BALKANS –
RURAL PERSPECTIVES**



VIOLENCE IN THE BALKANS – RURAL PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract The authors will provide an introduction to the thematic panel on violence in the Balkans with a particular focus on rural perspectives. This introductory part will be followed by major highlights from the Balkan Homicide Study (BHS) that analyses over 2,000 (attempted) homicide cases from Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania and Slovenia. Within the context of these overall findings on regional commonalities and differences in lethal violence characteristics (offenders, victims, cases) the authors will discuss rural perspectives. By comparing offender/victim/case characteristics of incidents committed in capital and major cities vs those committed in a rural setting the authors will look at the regional level, but also focus particularly on Croatia.

Keywords:

violence,
homicide,
Croatia,
Balkan

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDES IN SLOVENIAN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

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Abstract The study focused on the characteristics of homicides in Slovenia in the period 2010–2014. In general, Slovenia records one of the lowest homicide rates (e.g., in the study period, 133 homicides (including attempts were committed according to prosecution data). Comparison between urban and rural areas shows that in both environments: 1) the number of attempts is higher than completed homicides, 3) basic homicide is the predominant form of homicide, followed by qualified homicide, 3) cold weapons were most often used, 4) offenders were predominately Slovenians with lower levels of education and below-average income, 5) approximately a third of the offenders had prior convictions and were intoxicated with alcohol in the time of the offence, 6) victims were predominately Slovenians who had some form of the previous relationship with the offender, and 7) most of the victims were not intoxicated in the time of the offence. Differences between the areas are seen in the motive for homicide (in rural areas, the primary motive was general conflict, while in urban areas, offenders had no particular motive) and relationships between the victim and the offender. In urban areas, the victim and offender were most often acquaintances, while in rural areas, the victim and the offender were members of the same core family. In general, there are no significant differences in the homicide characteristics in urban and rural areas, which can be attributed to specific settlement characteristics in Slovenia, where the border between the rural and urban areas is often blurred.

Keywords:

homicide,
offender,
victim,
rural and
urban
environments,
Slovenia

BALKAN HOMICIDE STUDY IN ROMANIA

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Abstract The Balkan Homicide Study in Romania collected and analysed original empirical data on the most severe type of violence, homicides. The study analyses finalised as well as attempted homicide offences through the thorough examination of the regional samples of prosecution and court cases for the five-year period 2010–2014. This presentation attempts to answer questions on the phenomenology of homicides, characteristics of victims and offenders, their relationships, situational circumstances and questions regarding criminal proceeding in Romania focusing on differences between urban and rural communities.

Keywords:

Balkan
Homicide
Study,
Romania,
violence,
homicide

RURAL POLICING



RURAL CRIME AND POLICING IN THE POMURJE REGION, SLOVENIA – A CASE STUDY

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Abstract Pomurje is one of the most remote and least developed regions in Slovenia, where the rural environment predominates. Rural environments are specific for some crime forms, divided into four categories: 1) agricultural or farm crime, 2) equine crime, 3) wildlife crime, and 4) heritage crime. The paper aims to discuss the rural crime occurrence and related rural policing in the Pomurje region. We analysed crime statistics and conducted structured interviews with the commanders of five police stations in the area of Police Directorate Murska Sobota, where each police station's area has its specifics with accordingly organized police work. Individual criminal offences are typical in all areas and do not differ from criminal offences in urban areas (e.g., theft, robbery, vandalism, fraud). Illegal migration, crime related to motorway stops along the Pomurje motorway, environmental crime, crime related to Roma, domestic violence, especially against the women and elderly, and illegal drug production are the most prominent forms of rural crime in the Pomurje region. Socio-economic factors of smaller environments are reflected in rural settings and impact crime and policing. Small size, mutual knowledge, and coherence reduce police operations' rigour and affect police officer's judgment. Police officers in Pomurje stick to the words "together with the people for a safe local community." Results show that good interpersonal relations and cooperation with the residents, committed and professional police officers, and management support are essential factors for successful policing in rural areas, reflected in a high percentage of investigated criminal offences.

Keywords:

rural
crime,
rural
policing,
local
communities,
Pomurje

COMPARING POLICE VISIBILITY BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN SLOVENIA

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Abstract The purpose of this conference paper was to closely examine perceived police visibility in Slovenia. Making the police visible while they are performing typical police tasks has become an important issue especially within community policing initiatives. Previous research shows that there is a positive correlation between perceived police visibility and public satisfaction with the police. Moreover, the public usually wants the police to be more present on the streets. These public perceptions might differ, depending on the urban or rural character of the community. The existent knowledge and findings of previous research in this specific field are mixed. We believe that the awareness of potential differences in urban versus rural public perceptions is essential for further development of policing research and practice. The objective of the research was to examine and compare the police visibility between the rural and urban areas in Slovenia. For this purpose, a survey including a panel sample of participants was performed. A questionnaire included adjusted police visibility scales from Salmi et al. (2000) and Adams (2004). Standard translation – back-translation procedure was followed. Validity and reliability of the questionnaire were assessed and multiple linear regression was used to examine the relationship between the rural/urban area and police visibility, controlled for other demographic variables. The findings are discussed in this conference paper.

Keywords:

police
visibility,
policing,
urban
areas,
rural
areas,
Slovenia

POLICE, TEXT ALERT AND COMMUNITY. SKETCHING THE FIELD OF RURAL SECURITY IN IRELAND

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Abstract Up until now, criminological research focused on the nature of rural crime and security in Ireland has been minimal. Undertaking such research is immediately met with many theoretical and empirical challenges. One of these is the nature and depth of rural transformation driven by an advancing, globalised society. Examples of this include the decline in agricultural employment, greater connectivity to main hubs via an improved transportation grid and informational networks, or the closure of post offices, and police stations. A related challenge concerns how rural dwellers perceive these changes and how this shapes their sense of security. This paper will attempt to outline the field of security in rural Ireland. The presented data were obtained during a series of observations conducted in the Irish countryside during community meetings concerning the operation of the Text Alert Scheme, at the moment the dominant crime prevention initiative being a mixture of community engagement and use of informational technology. Conducted observations were used to map and analyse the politics of rural security using the concept of field, where the field should be understood as a symbolic and narrative space occupied by players within criminal justice. Therefore, the interactions between three main actors: the police force, NGO and rural dwellers recorded during the observations were used in the research of rural security governance with a strong emphasis on the nuanced and complicated nature of the interplay and negotiation between these players who often play “the same” game but are hoping to achieve their own goals.

Keywords:

rural
security,
crime
prevention,
community,
Ireland

RURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES I



AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES – A NEW RISING TREND OF PROPERTY CRIMES IN RURAL AREAS OF LITHUANIA

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Abstract Property related crimes are the most common crimes in many countries. An increasing number of reports on thefts of agricultural vehicles in Lithuania indicates a new crime trend in rural areas. Modern agricultural vehicles equipped with advanced technology are high-value property and have become a target for theft. As a result, such thefts cause substantial financial damage to farmers. The study presents a review of recent tractor theft cases in Lithuania with the aim to determine the reasons that led to higher rates of such crimes, challenges farmers and forensic investigators face in an attempt to solve the cases and to suggest measures for crime prevention. The analysis of cases over the period 2016–2020 indicates that there are many factors that account for the increase in property crime rates in rural areas with tractors becoming more desirable targets for criminals. One of the key factors is changes in the economic situation of farmers – they receive EU income support, part of which enables farmers to obtain high-cost agricultural vehicles. This has expanded the second-hand market with the opportunity to re-sell high-value agricultural vehicles in the country or abroad. Such crimes are carefully planned and in many cases, the offenders have underlying motives to commit the crime due to personal relations with the farmers. The percentage of solved cases together with target hardening measures implemented are the main issues to be taken into account in discussion on safety measures and vehicle theft control in rural areas.

Keywords:
agricultural
vehicle,
property
crime,
theft,
tractor,
crime
investigation

PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS BY THE CZECH CRIMINAL LAW

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Abstract Animals are living beings endowed with senses and thus able to feel pain, fear, and also to suffer from deprivation of basic life needs. These simple facts may be presented as the core reason that led to establishing the protection of animals by various branches of law, both on national and international levels. In this contribution, I focus on the issue of violence against one specific group of animals – domestic ones – and the possibilities of their protection under the Czech criminal law. Main attention is given to the definition of abuse and maltreatment of domestic animals according to the Czech criminal legislation *de lege lata*, causes of such maltreatment (including lack of legal knowledge of perpetrators) which may significantly differ in rural areas in comparison with urban areas, typical cases of abuse or insufficient care described in judicial practice and possibilities of prevention of such criminal acts. Last but not least I also provide few notes on the current development of the Czech legislation in this particular field.

Keywords:

green
criminology,
crime,
maltreatment,
domestic
animals,
legislation,
judicial
practice

CRIME RELATED TO NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES IN RURAL SEGREGATES OF MISKOLC IN HUNGARY

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Abstract Hungary is a prime example of how socio-cultural, economic and social disparities between different parts of the country and communities lead to the widening of the gap between rural and urban crime. Despite the economic policy aspirations of the last decade, the countryside has become increasingly disadvantaged. Income disparities continued to widen. Residents of segregated areas of the underdeveloped regions are no longer able to catch up with the fast-paced capital city or western Hungary. As they are tempted to reach the advanced and coveted metropolitan standard of living in any way. For this reason, one of the characteristic forms of crime in rural areas has been the sale of psychoactive substances in segregated areas. These substances of uncertain composition and mode of action cause enormous social damage in these areas, especially among young people, thereby catalyzing social and economic problems and preserving underdevelopment. While we may be aware that crime patterns related to conventional drugs, and even forms of crime against violent property, are increasingly diminishing in view of the financial gain that can be achieved with new psychoactive substances and the low risk of being caught and punished. I illustrate the situation by presenting the crime situation of the former industrial city of Miskolc in the north-east of the country. Demonstrating the legal and social complexity of the criminology problem.

Keywords:

segregate,
rural
crime,
psychoactive
drugs,
police,
criminal
geography

FLYING LOW, PERFORMING HIGH: THE USE OF UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS IN COUNTERING ILLICIT WASTE TRAFFICKING

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Abstract Waste management is a billion-dollar transnational industry. Like all lucrative industries, it attracts profit-seeking criminals across the globe, infiltrating polycriminal networks and resulting in devastating environmental, economic, and public health consequences. The actors involved are entrepreneurial. Their repertoire of *modi operandi* includes covert transport operations, exploitation of corrupt officials, false labelling, and neglect of legal waste processing requirements. Innovative as these may be, such offences invariably leave an environmental footprint, unmissable provided the right detection tools are available. One such tool is the unmanned aerial system or drone. Widely used in the security sector, but underexploited in eco-security, the deployment of drones to counter illicit waste trafficking (IWT) warrants deeper analysis. This paper will first provide an analytical overview of the current situation of IWT, concentrating on its effects on rural environments in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). It will present what is known about the *modi operandi* of traffickers, building on several case studies from CEE. Secondly, the paper will elucidate the environmental traces left by illegally trafficked or disposed waste, before presenting an analysis of drone use and combinable technologies in counter-IWT. Here, the paper aims to identify the different sensors that can be held in the payload to detect risks and understand how data collected from these can be combined and correlated. Finally, the paper will elicit the unexploited capabilities and potential of drones in air-, toxic spot- and landfill-monitoring, calculation of airspace, and waste movement tracking providing concrete recommendations for law enforcement and environmental agencies.

Keywords:

drones,
environmental
crime,
waste
trafficking

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME PROSECUTION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract Environmental crime with the rise of awareness related to the importance of nature as the sole and irreplaceable source of life today became an important part of global and national criminal justice policies. Those trends are followed in Bosnia and Herzegovina although not with equal intensity. Public awareness is still much more prone to consider corruption and other forms of crime, in particular violent crime, to be the main threat to society and its welfare. On the other side, as traditionally protection of the environment was and still is part of other legal branches, in particular administrative law, Bosnia and Herzegovina criminal justice system have yet to develop more efficient strategies on both prevention and prosecution of environmental crime. The Paper discusses the range of environmental crime incrimination according to laws in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well the specific trends in prosecution including the major problems encountered during investigation and proving of this form of crime. Due attention is paid to corporate criminal liability which gets more importance in contemporary criminal law and is particularly important concerning environmental crime. Finally, part of the paper are findings related to environmental crime share in total crime statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Keywords:
Bosnia and
Herzegovina,
environmental
crime,
prosecution,
trends,
perspectives

**RURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PERSPECTIVES II**



WATER CRIMES AND GOVERNANCE IN SLOVENIA

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Abstract Due to the limited quantities of water, a growing world population, and its unique importance for living beings, water demands are increasing. In addition to the amount of water available, its quality is also essential. Water crimes include various types of offences ranging from the pilfering of water from pipelines and water pollution to fraud and illegal trafficking of water, etc., and are challenging to detect, investigate, and prosecute. We take the Republic of Slovenia as a case study. Due to the geographical position, Slovenia has a wealth of natural resources, and even though it is one of the smallest countries in Europe, it is one of the richest concerning water resources. In this study, the nature of crimes against water resources, as well as challenges regarding water governance and policing water crimes, are discussed. Rural (green) criminology must go in the direction of expanding the field of water protection and water crime prevention.

Keywords:

water,
water
crimes,
governance,
policing,
Slovenia

FIELD GUARDS IN HUNGARY: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, PRESENT OVERVIEW AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract Municipalities in Hungary have played a significant role in the maintenance of rural security for centuries through the operation of field guards, formerly field police, as a local governmental law enforcement body. Laying down the legal framework for the operation of field guards in the 19th century and these frameworks which have hardly changed in the socialist period still defines the security tasks of local governments concerning the outer areas of the municipalities. Field guards, although unavoidable actors in rural policing, were not the subject of research before, therefore the authors of the paper examined the legal framework and practical tasks of field guards. Based on the research, the image of a service-providing local government law enforcement agency emerged, the role of which is growing year by year due to the unique funding among the local government law enforcement agencies.

Keywords:

local
government
law
enforcement, field
guards,
law
enforcement
cooperation,
local
security,
rural
security

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: LEGISLATION(S), JUDICIAL PRACTICE AND STATISTICS

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Abstract Environmental protection with the rise of awareness related to the importance of nature as the sole and irreplaceable source of life today has become an important part of global and national legal policies. Besides the other forms of environmental protection on a national level, which are mostly in the domain of administrative law, an important area of the legal protection of the environment are the rules of criminal law. These rules are aimed at environment protection through deterrence and punishment for criminal acts against nature and related crimes which are known as environmental crime. In Bosnia and Herzegovina environmental crime includes a wide range of criminal offences against nature and natural resources, agriculture and animals. Based on the constitutional organization in the criminal law jurisdiction domain, these offences are not part of the state-level criminal law legislation but legislation at the entity level of Federation BiH and Republika Srpska including the legislation of Brčko district BiH, as well. However, it needs to be said that some forms of criminal offences against the environment are defined by state criminal law legislation as a specific form of other criminal offences. Paper discusses the legal nature of these offences in Bosnia and Herzegovina criminal law legislation(s) with the main focus on the adequacy of their legal definitions and prescribed criminal sanctions.

Keywords:

Bosnia and
Herzegovina,
environmental
crime,
legislation(s),
judicial
practice,
statistics

COMBATING CRIME AGAINST HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY IN RURAL AREAS

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Abstract The focus of the research of this paper is the phenomenology of criminal offences of non-compliance with health regulations for the suppression of dangerous infectious diseases in rural areas of Montenegro and their comparison with the commission of these crimes in urban areas of this country. In Montenegro, in 2020, the number of persons reported for crimes against human health increased by 833.86%. Out of that, the largest number of committed criminal acts is non-compliance with health regulations for the suppression of dangerous infectious diseases, 2377. Concerning the place of commission, 420 or 17.6% of these criminal acts were committed in a rural area. The number of 530 or 22.2% of these crimes were committed in the suburbs. The number of 1,457 or 65.2% of these crimes were committed in the city area. In relation to the time of committing criminal offences in rural areas in the observed period, most criminal offences 289 or 68.8% were committed during the night. In Montenegro, in the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a strict application of legislation ordering measures to combat the pandemic, and in that period there were more persons deprived of their liberty than infected persons. These measures were later relaxed and a large number of cases of violations of anti-epidemic measures were treated in misdemeanour proceedings. These forms of rural crime during the pandemic will be discussed in detail.

Keywords:

crime,
pandemic,
rural
area,
criminal
phenomenology

THE ILLEGAL HUNTING PHENOMENON IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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Abstract Hunting in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has a long-standing tradition. Favourable ecological conditions in the country provide survival and breeding of various game species in a relatively small area. During the war period, wildlife was systematically destroyed, while illegal hunting has been remaining an enormous issue concerning species reduction in a hunting grounds of BiH. However, criminological research of such green crime is lacking in BiH. This study examines the nature of illegal hunting in BiH through a green criminological lens. The main objectives of the study are to outline the criminalisation of illegal hunting activities and law enforcement mechanisms, as well as to determine the extent and distribution of registered illegal hunting crimes in BiH. An overview of illegal hunting activities derives from official justice statistics of the relevant offices of statistics. Although there are no reliable estimates of the scale of hidden illegal hunting crime in BiH, the study findings indicate that the majority of these crimes remain unreported. Additionally, findings will be presented in more detail, drawing attention to key debates and future directions for discussion.

Keywords:

illegal
hunting,
game,
green
criminology,
laws and
regulations,
Bosnia and
Herzegovina

SAFETY AND SECURITY PERSPECTIVES I



A »META-RIGHT« IN LOCAL CONTEXT: THE REGULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHT TO SECURITY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SLOVENIA

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Abstract Drawing from the maxim, that security is an inclusive public good and fundamental right that must be accessible to all residents of local communities, we will explore in our presentation the legal regulation of the right to security in local communities. We will clarify in general terms how the right to security is enshrined and protected in the Slovenian legal system. The status of the right to security in the Slovenian law is somehow paradoxical. In most important legal documents, such as international human rights conventions and the Constitution, the right to security is merely mentioned but not defined in substance. Nevertheless, the right to security as a fundamental human right and value extends itself to all segments and at all levels of the legal order, including the local level. Special attention will be drawn to the regulation and sanctioning of minor offences by the local communities that fall within the competences of municipal councils, warden services and inspection services. Among the tools for providing safety and security that fall within the competences of municipal councils, municipal warden services and inspection services, is, inter alia, the regulation and sanctioning of minor offences. A municipality may prescribe a minor offence and the fine that is imposed if/when such an offence has been committed only for violations of the regulations that the municipality itself issued within the limits of its competences. We will present open questions and dilemmas about these issues.

Keywords:

right to security, local communities, minor offences, warden services, inspection services

SECURITY SPECIFICITIES IN RURAL AREAS

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Abstract This paper points to the need for the security system and the police to be further trained for situations of population migration from rural areas, due to changes in the structure of crimes and the work of the police according to old models of organizing, functioning and equipping. Reasons are a disrespect of the profession, science and vocation, which affects the efficiency of police work in rural areas. The practical implementation of work is geared towards security issues in rural areas, members of the police force and security entities of other countries that form part of the regional and wider security system. Problems of scientific and practical truth, in the current national security system, were perceived and explored. We tried to explain, using the synthesis method, problems in the functioning of the security system, security prevention and the police force, by suggesting activities and actions immanent to the needs of the police's efficient work and an effective security system. This work is the result of research into the state of the security system and the police force under new conditions in rural areas. Shortcomings related to the cumbersomeness, inefficiency, irrationality of the police force in rural areas have been presented, which impose the need to adapt the work to new conditions, following modern European standards. The reform would equalize the efficiency of the security system in rural with those in urban areas, with the ability to, and the need for, cooperation with other countries, especially EU member states.

Keywords:

police,
criminal
education,
prevention,
security,
reform

ENSURING ROAD SAFETY: SPECIFIC PECULIARITIES IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS REPUBLICS

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Abstract Road safety is a global problem. Mortality rates from road traffic accidents continue to rise. In 2000, road traffic fatalities were the 10th leading death cause in the world; a little more than 15 years later, in 2016, they were the 8th leading cause of death. According to the world country ranking of traffic fatalities, Russia ranks 72nd among 175 countries, in 2015, it ranked 87th. Despite traffic accidents reduction, their level remains relatively high, and the number of fatalities in one year alone is generally comparable to the population of a small Russian town. The problem of preventing road accidents has been devoted considerable attention; it is studied by scientists and practitioners from different perspectives, first of all, from the viewpoint of improved legislation and enhanced accountability. However, despite the measures taken, the number of fatalities on the roads is changing, but insignificantly and very slowly. Such a situation is a consequence of complex factors. The republics of the North Caucasus differ in certain features from other regions of Russia. These peculiarities are primarily related to traditional Caucasian customs. However, there are also certain differences between the republics themselves on road safety matters. The problem of road safety in the republics of the North Caucasus is unlikely to be solved only by criminal law means. The situation analysis demonstrates the need to adjust the state strategy in the field of road safety policy for different regions of the country.

Keywords:

ensuring road safety, road safety policy, North Caucasus, traffic accidents fatalities

SAFETY AND SECURITY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES – AN OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH IN SLOVENIA

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Abstract Safety and security in local communities is an important part of national security as a whole and can contribute to the principles of democracy and decentralization of power. It can be defined as a preventive activity, as it focuses on groups that are more at risk to be victims of crime, and focuses on aspects such as how to improve people's participation in the community, how local control can be improved and how state institutions should work in the community. The paper presents research in the field of safety and security in the local communities in Slovenia. We summarized the studies conducted from 2000 to 2015, which focused on the community policing, involvement of various institutions relevant to local community safety and security, and fear of crime. The emphasis of all conducted research was mainly on public safety and crime. There are presented seven proceedings, created within the Program Group of the Faculty of Security Sciences for Security in Local Communities in 2015, where research and studies cover integrated issues of safety and security in the local environment. They include legal and sociological aspects of security, policing, cybersecurity, and many more. Because Slovenia is mainly a rural country, increasing attention to safety and security in rural areas is paid. The focus on research on rural safety and security issues is therefore welcomed, as it opens up new fields of research, and the need to identify and develop new research techniques and findings for the beforementioned field.

Keywords:
safety and
security,
local
community,
research,
Slovenia

**SAFETY AND SECURITY
PERSPECTIVES II**



HANDLING WEAPONS AS A SOURCE OF SECURITY THREATS IN THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract We will present at the conference the possible sources of endangering the safety of weapons handling in violation of the legal rules in Slovenian local communities. We want to shed light on the security risks posed by the actual use of weapons around local communities. Namely, the general position has been adopted, according to which weapons are by their nature a dangerous thing, which, if misused, poses a direct threat to life, health and safety of people and public order. Injuries and deaths due to the use of firearms are serious public health issues in many countries. Accidental deaths and injuries due to the use of firearms represent a small but significant proportion of all deaths and injuries related to the use of firearms. The victim, however, can be either the shooter himself or a random individual. The causes lie mainly in incompetence, carelessness, and recklessness, and often the presence of alcohol also contributes to weapons accidents. The article thus focuses primarily on the analysis of security threats arising from the execution of shootings on civilian shooting ranges, shooting ranges or land used by individuals and shooting organizations and in hunting grounds. These areas are generally located within local communities, which can pose a serious security risk to local communities. It should be noted that limited access to weapons, in conjunction with appropriate regulation, is the most effective measure to reduce the number of injuries and deaths related to weapons.

Keywords:

use of weapons, shooting ranges, hunting grounds, legal regulation of weapons, accidents with weapons

THE LINK BETWEEN UNEMPLOYMENT AND CRIMINALITY OF BURGLARY INTO WEEKEND HOUSES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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Abstract The paper discusses the link between unemployment and criminality of burglary into weekend houses which are mostly situated in rural areas. Although burglary into weekend houses creates a small part of overall criminality in the Czech Republic, this type of criminality happens every six hours. Some publications, studies and analyses point to unemployment as an important factor in increasing the criminality rate. The main target of this article is to find out if unemployment has affected the criminality rate of burglary into weekend houses in rural areas in the Czech Republic. In order to calculate results, we gathered monthly data (relevant indexes and indicators, which express unemployment and criminality rate) in fourteen districts of the Czech Republic in the time period 2013–2019. Using relevant statistical methods (correlation and regression analysis), we made a comprehensive statement about the statistically significant link between those two variables. This paper shows the fact, that increasing unemployment has impacted the increased burglary into weekend houses in the Czech Republic.

Keywords:

burglary,
criminality,
link,
statistics,
unemployment

MIGRANTS AND RURAL SAFETY IN SERBIA: WHETHER SERBIA PROTECTS MIGRANTS FROM CORONAVIRUS OR POPULATION FROM MIGRANTS?

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Abstract A key element of the EU's evolution is the abolition of internal borders and the establishment of the freedom of movement, which, however, is not accompanied by a single legal system. The migrant crisis is not calming down and in the last six decades, the nature and character of these migrations have changed. The author in this work deals with the problem of the position of migrants in rural areas in Serbia during the coronavirus epidemic situation. During the state of emergency, Serbia adopted measures by which migrants were imprisoned in migration centres and in a way deprived of their liberty. The explanation of the Government states that it was done for the health safety of migrants. The question is whether in this way the state wanted to protect migrants' health or citizens from migrants, taking into account the increased violence between migrants and the local population. The author conducted a survey in these areas, explain in detail the results of the research, based on which he gives a conclusion.

Keywords:
migrants,
rural
safety,
deprivation of
liberty,
migrant's
crime,
human
rights

RISK COMMUNICATION IN CASE OF UNAUTHORIZED USE OF SULPHITES AS A FOOD ADDITIVE

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Abstract Risk communication is utilized to support the exchange of information and opinions on food safety risks and related factors among relevant stakeholders (governments, consumers, food business operators, non-government organizations, experts, media and others) and can enable consumers to make informed decisions and choices. The purpose of this article is to present a real case study of risk communication in the area of ensuring food safety. Sulphites are a group of compounds composed of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and several inorganic sulphite salts that may liberate SO₂ under appropriate conditions. As food additives are authorized to use in some foodstuffs and beverages to prevent oxidation and bacterial growth and then to prolong shelf-life. Using sulphites in meat preparations and fresh meat is not allowed, because they can enhance food appearance by inhibiting discolouration and give the product a more attractive appearance. Sulphite is an allergen and unsafe for consumers who suffer from allergic reactions to sulphites. Consuming sulphite-containing foods may cause an allergic reaction and food intolerance symptoms in sensitive individuals, such as asthmatic reactions and bronchospasm, occasionally severe, hives, flushing, bradycardia, as well as prominent gastrointestinal symptoms. This article aims to present risk communication of unlawful use of sulphites by some food business operators in Slovenia. The responsible authority in Slovenia is determined the food fraud, violation of several regulations of food safety legislation and violation of consumer protection law. In this case, the challenge is how to communicate with the public and to inform consumers properly, to protect their health.

Keywords:

risk
communication,
food
safety,
sulphites,
consumer
protection,
official
control

SECURITY OF HOME - CRIME PREVENTION BASED ON THE COMMUNITY

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Abstract Within the paper, the author will give an overview of the crime in the Republic of North Macedonia (statistics on reported crimes in the country for the period 2008–2017). Furthermore, the author will point out the need to develop the concept of “community security”. In order to prevent crime, Emphasis should be placed on the multisectoral approach that should involve the public, private and civil society sectors in developing crime-based policies. The need for a local response to crime has developed the concept of “community security”, which has become a current topic of public, political and scientific debate. The author determines the aspects through which this approach will be realized. The main goal of that approach is to improve the quality of life in the community in which citizens, individually and collectively, will be protected from threats and fear as a result of criminal and other socially negative behaviours. It includes economic, social, cultural changes at the local and national level in the country. The content will be based on an analysis of domestic and foreign literature and using electronic content. The subject of research in this paper is the prevention of crime at the local level by implementing the concept of "community security". The aim of the research in this paper is to achieve the security of the citizens and the home, through the preventive role of the private, public and civil sector at the local level.

Keywords:

crime
prevention,
community
security,
citizen and
property
security

VIOLENCE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY



SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN NIGHTLIFE ENTERTAINMENT SPOTS IN SLOVENIA – THE MEDIA REPORTS ANALYSIS

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Abstract This paper aims to present pilot research of Slovenian media reports about sexual violence and harassment in nightlife entertainment spots in Slovenia in the period between 1. 1. 2014 and 30. 6. 2020. Slovenian media Delo, Dnevnik, Večer, 24ur, RTVSLO, and a few topic-related articles in other online media were included in the analysis. The media review followed the combination of the keywords: sexual violence, harassment, and rape. Using text data analysis program MaxQDA 2020, we conducted a qualitative study of 90 reports. The most frequent terms used in researched articles were: GHB [gamma-hydroxybutyric acid] known as rape drug, police, court/law, Ljubljana (the capital city of Slovenia), and acts referring to inappropriate, prohibited, or criminal acts. A pilot quantitative investigation of Slovenian media shows us some preliminary conclusions. Firstly, sexual harassment, particularly in nightlife entertainment spots, is in Slovenian media underrepresented. Mentioned is noticeable in a small number of articles found in the research. Secondly, articles were mostly focused on reporting about the occurrence of “rape drugs” GHB, which was most frequently reported by the media in 2014. It is noticeable that the most severe cases of sexual violence, e.g., rape, dealt with by law enforcement (police and court), were in the focus of media reports, “less severe” forms of harassment were rarely mentioned. Lastly, the reporting was focused on offences and offenders concerning criminal procedures. We noticed some awareness-raising and prevention related to drug abuse, but otherwise, it was missing in the analysed media reports.

Keywords:

sexual violence and harassment, nightlife, entertainment, media reports, Slovenia

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN CROATIA FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

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Abstract Although significant legal dimensions of equality have been achieved, there are still persistent social dimensions of inequality of women. In an attempt to examine some reasons for this, we aimed to look into personal experience, views and stories of women working in courts (judges), social services and the police who professionally deal with the cases of gender-based violence. Our analysis is based on semi-structured dialogic interviews as in-depth in-person conversations with concerned persons, reached based on chain-referral or snowball sampling. This qualitative approach does not provide the basis for generalization, but is an important complement to quantitative approaches if one wishes to reduce reification and provide a thick description of the situation on the field. Thematic and narrative analysis of the data gathered in interviews (N = 20) is conducted, with the help of NVivo software. The results enable the mapping of relevant topics and concerns as well as suggest there are culturally specific resistance strategies in both women's conduct and the reaction of the community. These strategies rely on and negotiate with traditional family arrangements, which might foster social cohesion and safety, particularly in predominantly rural regions. The theoretical background is found primarily in Sylvia Walby's notion of gender regime and the modernization from private to public patriarchy, especially due to the fact that personal views and experience of professional women are analysed. Also, the overview of the modern urban-rural dichotomy as applied in sociological theory is given, together with the gender-aware criticism of its implicit androcentrism.

Keywords:

gender-based
violence,
interviews,
safety,
women,
Croatia

SAFETY, REGULATIONS AND THE CASE LAW REGARDING BLADE- TYPE WEAPONS IN LITHUANIA

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Abstract The development and use of new technologies raise a number of legislative questions concerning the sale or possession of blade-type weapons. Lithuanian law enforcement officials have to deal with some ambiguous issues where online trade is still not precisely regulated and many cases show that it is still possible to purchase a blade weapon for persons who would not be able to acquire it lawfully on a regular basis. The second issue that confuses law enforcement officials is the implementation of regulations when there is no consistency with international laws. Finally, the police officers raise a question on how to ensure public safety when the sale, possession and carrying of a blade weapon lack some regulation. This paper is a systematic review of legal regulations of trade, possession, use and transportation of all types of blade-type weapons in Lithuania from the perspective of law-case. The study covers specific cases in Lithuania, notes some of the problems law enforcement officials encounter and reports the data from the survey of police officers where they justify failing to solve some problems regarding the implementation of weapon control. The study explores and discusses the problems that have arisen in domestic law enforcement situations and seeks to clarify in what particular aspects the regulations are confusing. It also provides some insightful suggestions which might have implications for updating legislation in order to avoid inconsistency of weapon regulations with the Criminal Code and international laws.

Keywords:

safety,
blade-type
weapon,
weapon,
control

FACING HATE CRIMES AND HATE SPEECH IN LITHUANIA: PROBLEMS, CHALLENGES AND THE CASE LAW

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Abstract Judgements and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (the ECHR) concerning hate crimes and speech are being implemented in Lithuania. However, a simple examination of the national case law and legal implications reveals many problematic issues and raise legal discussions on how to lawfully obtain, assess or provide the evidence. Finally, it seems that there is still no common agreement on how to interpret the decisions of the ECHR in a different national context. The study presents an overview of the case law in Lithuania concerning hate crimes and hate speech and seeks to clarify at what particular stage most of the problems occur. This is a holistic systematic approach to the hate crime issue which follows all the stages of legal proceeding: evidence collection, examination, submitting, and decision making. Such a detailed survey raises serious concerns about the lack of consistent methods which are to be used in hate-related cases and might significantly improve the process. The second issue that is highlighted sheds the light on problematic interpretations of the judgements of the ECHR. Though there is a substantial body of extensive comments on the issue, a union of local circumstances shapes the discourse and leads to problems in drawing the parallel from the international case law to the domestic one. The paper gives some insights for legal discussions which in their turn promote a consistent approach to the problems in law enforcement situations at the domestic level.

Keywords:

case
law,
hate
crimes,
hate
speech

THE USE OF FORENSIC EVIDENCE IN INVESTIGATING OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES AGAINST SEXUAL INTEGRITY: A STRUCTURED REVIEW OF SLOVENIAN LITERATURE

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Abstract The investigation of criminal offences against sexual integrity and proving of them in later criminal proceedings are constantly combined with evidence. The police usually determine the possibility of collecting forensic evidence and their value in further investigation upon the very beginning at the perception of a criminal act and initial interview. Police investigator must detect possible evidence at the right time to collect them in such a way that their validity in further proceedings is not in question. This can give him a possibility to avoid evidence destruction, degradation or contamination. Forensic evidence must be appropriately linked to the elements of the crime and presented transparently in criminal proceedings, making it easier for the judge to decide on the guilt of the accused. The article presents a review of the Slovenian literature in the field of forensic evidence in the investigation of criminal offences against sexual integrity. It has been established that the articles deal mainly with criminological factors and various areas of obtaining personal evidence through interviews. However, a professional gap is perceived in the field of obtaining non-personal forensic evidence and linking them to the criminal act. There is also a gap in the field of medical forensic examination to obtain forensic evidence for a criminal investigation. In order to determine how this professional gap affects the investigation, it would be necessary to conduct extensive case studies, and to review the professional literature from other sources.

Keywords:

evidence,
sexual
violence,
forensic
medical
examination,
criminal
forensic
examination

THE ASSESSMENT OF JUDGES AND PROFESSIONALS ON AN INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEW WITH CHILDREN VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

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Abstract In recent decades children's involvement in the law system as victims of crime and witnesses has increased. In Turkey, the Ministry of Justice has been making extraordinary efforts to increase child-friendly interview rooms in various provinces' courthouses throughout Turkey. A research was conducted in three big courthouses of Istanbul to make an assessment of judges and professionals on an investigative interview with children victims of sexual abuse in 2019. Also to assess their answers in terms of compliance with current literature knowledge. In this research exploratory pattern which is one of the methods of mixed research was used. The research data was collected through qualitative and quantitative methods. The qualitative data was collected by embedded sample. The concept of this research via taken permission interview was conducted face to face with 18 judges and 25 professional staff those who work in three big law courts of Istanbul by using a semi-structured interview form. 17 participants were female and 26 participants were male. The analysis of the research data was made by using Maxqda 2020 qualitative data analysis program. It was determined that the training on a forensic interview with sexually abused children had been found sufficient by most of the judges, insufficient by more than half of the professional staff according to the result of the research. Professional staff declared that there should be more practical training in the next training programs.

Keywords:

child,
evidence,
exploitation,
forensic
interview,
system
theory

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE I



ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS, GUIDELINES, AND DIRECTIVES IN THE FIELD OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SLOVENIA

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Abstract IMPRODOVA, Improving Frontline Responses to High Impact Domestic Violence, is a research and innovation H2020 project funded by the European Union. It aims to provide solutions for an integrated response to high-impact domestic violence, based on comprehensive empirical research on how police and other frontline responders respond to domestic violence. Within this project, a group of researchers from Slovenia analysed the implementation of international recommendations, guidelines, and directives in the field of domestic violence in Slovenia. Respondents from various first-line responders ($n = 77$) were asked to evaluate 28 principles arising from international documents and recommendations in dealing with victims of domestic violence. First, respondents were asked to what extent, in their opinion, the guidelines were implemented in Slovenia, and then they were asked to assess the extent to which the guideline is vital for efficient work with victims of domestic violence in Slovenia. Respondents report that the following principles have been implemented to the greatest extent: a) free of charge services for victims; b) a helpline able to answer all incoming calls, and; c) informing victims of their rights. However, the lowest level of compliance was found in the requirements that a) data (about service user demographics and nature of offences) should be collected and maintained systematically, with respect to user's rights of confidentiality, and b) hospital emergency departments should have protocols for handling sexual violence and staff training.

Keywords:
domestic
violence,
international
standards,
Slovenia,
first
responders,
IMPRODOVA

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST PARENTS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ELDERLY: RELATION, SIMILARITIES, DIFFERENCES

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Abstract The paper presents a literature review on violence against parents and violence against the elderly. The two fields are related when the victim is a parent aged 65 or over. The beginnings of research of both fields date back to the 1970s, and parallels can also be found in underreporting, forms of violence, risk factors and consequences. The differences between the two areas are in perpetrators and victims. In cases of violence against parents, the perpetrators are children, and the victims are parents. In cases of violence against the elderly, the perpetrators are family members, acquaintances and strangers, and the victims are persons aged 65 and over. This contribution presents a starting point for discussions on the possibilities of researching, detecting, investigating, proving and preventing violence against parents and violence against the elderly.

Keywords:

violence
against
parents,
violence
against
the elderly,
relation,
similarities,
differences

WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE: SOCIAL FUNCTIONING AND SEEKING SUPPORT

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Abstract Social support is essential when people need aid and assistance. Support groups for people suffering from various kinds of distress have emerged online as well. Among topics like mental health, cancer, pregnancy, etc. there is also one reserved for women, victims of crime, specifically victims of various kinds of abuse and violence. One of the reasons for which the informal online support groups might be frequently visited and used is the anonymity that they offer. As victims of violence often experience intense feelings of guilt and shame, getting help anonymously could be an important source of support. Within this presentation, we argue that such support better meets the needs of this specific group than other more formal sources of support. The victims' social functioning and their capacity to elicit support that is congruent with their needs, the heterogeneity of such groups, individual experiences, and perception of social support will be discussed.

Keywords:

victims of
violence,
abuse,
women,
social
support,
social
functioning

ETIOLOGICAL- PHENOMENOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RURAL SERBIA: THE PLACE MATTERS

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Abstract The aim of the paper is to point to the characteristics of domestic violence in rural areas of Serbia. Geographic isolation, traditional social patterns and cultural norms and attitudes that characterize rural households contribute to the creation and maintenance of violent patterns of behaviour in rural areas. Despite the legally guaranteed gender equality and protection against domestic violence, women in rural Serbia are recognized as a group particularly exposed to domestic violence due to the predominantly traditional beliefs and patterns of behaviour in villages in Serbia. Therefore, the aim of the paper is to point to the etiological-phenomenological dimension of domestic violence in rural areas of Serbia. It is assumed that domestic violence in rural areas of Serbia is characterized by the high dark figures of the crime because it is usually kept as a private matter of the family, suffered for a long time, so it is difficult to see its real prevalence. For this reason, besides pointing to the characteristics of domestic violence in rural areas of Serbia, the aim of the paper is to point to the reasons for not reporting this violence, in order to contribute to the establishment of adequate responses to this type of violence, in accordance with its specificities. Finally, the aim of the paper is to point to the specifics of psycho-social treatment of perpetrators of domestic violence coming from rural areas, bearing in mind that they have a greater degree of the patriarchal system of values and beliefs.

Keywords:
domestic
violence,
violence
against
women,
rural
communities,
etiological-
phenomenological
dimension,
psycho-social
treatment of
perpetrators

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE II



CRIMINAL LEGAL ASPECTS OF COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE CRIME OF PARTNER HOMICIDE – PERSPECTIVES OF SERBIA AND CROATIA

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Abstract The contemporary tendencies of criminal legislation in general, including the criminal legislation of Serbia and Croatia, resort to modern concepts of more effective combating crime, including the crime of domestic violence. Accordingly, the logical question arises as to whether Serbia and Croatia have successfully responded to the challenges posed by contemporary society, and whether they have respected European standards and postulates of the democracy of the rule of law in this category of crimes. Through an expert and critical analysis of the normative solutions present in the criminal legislation of both Serbia and Croatia, the authors will provide answers and suggestions *de lege ferenda* to combat domestic violence more effectively through the following aspects: first, introductory considerations; second, the pre-crime concept and effectiveness of combating domestic violence in Serbia and Croatia; third, criminal legal protection against domestic violence in Serbia and Croatia; fourth, an empirical research of filed criminal charges for domestic violence and partner homicide; fifth, concluding considerations.

Keywords:

european standards, domestic violence, murder, police, public prosecutor

FAMILY VIOLENCE AS A FORM OF CRIMINALITY AND RURAL SECURITY PERSPECTIVES IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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Abstract Domestic violence in the Republic of Serbia has been a frequent and very pronounced phenomenon in recent times, which is not effectively influenced by sanctioning legal measures. The range of listed and potential causes and disorders in the family, as well as a crisis in the family community, has increased significantly in the last five years. There are a number of risks and crisis assessment methodologies for the family, as well as vulnerabilities of the female and child population in comparison to the male population. Therefore, an analysis of the application of methodologies in assessing risks, in this form of violence, and the sanctioning of abusers has not, yet, reduced violence and the endangerment of family, on the contrary, often experiencing a rise. Thus, through this paper, the numerical issues of endangering families through domestic violence in rural areas are addressed statistically, with a comparison of the same form of violence with families from urban areas. The objective and purpose of this work are to prove the real threatening forms of domestic violence, as a form of crime and its frequency, and an increase in threats in the rural areas of the Republic of Serbia. While our goals are based on an investigation of the reported occurrences, after the crimes have been committed, during the past five years, as well as an analysis of all events, with a proposal of appropriate and potential solutions and perspectives of security institutions.

Keywords:

family,
violence,
rural,
Serbia,
frequency

SOCIO-STRUCTURAL AND CULTURAL DETERMINANTS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN IN FAMILIES IN RURAL AREAS

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Abstract Emotional abuse against a child in the family can negatively affect his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral, as well as social development. The purpose of this paper is to analyze socio-structural and cultural determinants of emotional abuse against children in rural areas, given that these groups of determinants differ in the conditions under which urban and rural abuse is more or less likely to occur. Different behaviours can be classified under emotional abuse – rejection, degradation, intimidation, different discriminatory practices, and certainly denial of emotional response. The methods of theoretical content analysis with basic methods of concretization and specialization, normative, comparative method, as well as basic quantitative analysis of tabulated data are applied in this paper. The expected results of the research should give a clearer picture of the differences in socio-structural and cultural treatment of activities that can be considered emotional abuse against children in rural areas, compared to urban areas. It is also interesting to analyze comparative data on the prevalence of emotional abuse against children in families in the Balkan region. Comparing the experiences of urban and rural areas, this paper contributes to a clearer picture of the conditionality of emotional abuse against children in rural areas and makes overarching recommendations to prevent the basic socio-structural and cultural determinants and factors in this domain.

Keywords:
emotional
abuse,
children,
socio-structural
determinants,
cultural
determinants,
rural
areas



WOMEN IN NEED AND WOMEN IN DEED – ONLINE SOCIAL SUPPORT AMONG WOMEN, VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

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Abstract According to the research of the EU Agency for fundamental rights in 2014, 62 million or 33% of women above 15 years old were victims of physical and/or sexual violence. Most women did not report the violence to the police. Like some women, victims of crime, search for social support in online support groups, these groups could be a source of additional information on violence against women. One of such support groups in Slovenia is Women in need, which is part of the largest medical forum in Slovenia med.over.net. The objective of this study was to examine the nature of the social support between members of this online support group. For this purpose, all posts on the beforementioned OSG from 2002 till 2020 were retrieved and analysed. Text mining methods were used to obtain a fewer number of topics of discussion and network analysis to analyse some aspects of the interrelationship among online support group forum. The results indicate that users mainly post in a single topic and that supportive relationship seldomly develops within the group. Members seek mainly informational support and seem to be unable to provide emotional support to other members of this forum. The practical meaning of the obtained results and consequences are discussed within this conference paper.

Keywords:

victims of
crime,
women,
violence
against
women,
online
social
support,
types of
social
support

CHILDREN'S HOUSE – A COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT OF JUVENILE VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

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Abstract The number of crimes against children and minors has been steadily increasing in recent years, so this year the so-called child-friendly justice system was established in sectoral legislation. The need to change the procedures, speed of response and professional treatment of the abused children by anyone who comes into contact with them led to the adoption of the Act, which stipulates that comprehensive treatment of juvenile victims and witnesses is a public service provided by the state; a special public institution. Crisis support and psychosocial assistance will be available to children at all times in the Barnahus, provided by an appointed child counsellor. The main objectives of the Act are to comprehensively and systematically regulate the treatment of juvenile victims and victims of crime based on international legal standards, conventions, and good practices adopted in some other countries and promoted by both the European Union and the Council of Europe; identify clear starting points that complement the existing criminal law, in order to prevent secondary victimization of child victims and witnesses and to pursue their best interests; independently regulate a number of institutes within a single law, which will make the treatment system clearer, more transparent, and thus more consistently ensure the legal security of the children of victims and victims of crime. The establishment of the Barnahus Children's Home simultaneously coordinates the implementation of criminal investigation and child protection procedures and the support of children who are victims or witnesses of violence in a child-friendly and safe environment.

Keywords:

report,
work,
public
prosecutor,
office,
legislation,
statistics,
juvenile,
victims,
crime

**ISRD – RURAL AND URBAN
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND
VICTIMIZATION**



CHARACTERISTICS OF SELF-REPORTED DELINQUENCY IN RURAL AREAS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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Abstract The issue of security in rural areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina is rarely in the focus of criminological research, which puts the issue of social control of crime in its many populated areas into the background. Using the data collected within the framework of the International Self-Reported Study 3, this paper seeks to shed light on the characteristics of self-reported juvenile delinquency in rural areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Phenomenological characteristics of delinquent behaviour among primary school students will be singled out from the statistical data collected through mentioned research. In relation to the defined subject of this paper, particular emphasis will be placed on checking the variables generated on the basis of the thesis of the social bond and social control theory, which should show us the extent to which the more traditional and significantly more cohesive environment plays a role in preventing delinquency in the youngest members of the community. This paper outlines the basic indicators of the phenomenology of this phenomenon, in particular the indicators of behaviour with elements of violence, property delinquency, group delinquency and manifestations of prohibited behaviour relating to information communication technologies and alcohol and drug abuse. Based on the results of the conducted analyses, this paper aims to enrich the database with data on this phenomenon, which could improve the guidelines and recommendations for institutions responsible for the development and implementation of prevention programmes aimed at counteracting the delinquent behaviour of elementary school students in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Keywords:
self-reported
delinquency,
rural
areas,
security,
primary
school
students

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND VICTIMIZATION: URBAN VS RURAL ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract The differences between urban and rural environment and their impact on crime prevalence, fear of crime and victimization have been the subject of much research and have been proven by many experts. As juvenile delinquency is one of the most common phenomena and forms of crime, which undoubtedly raises many concerns in the society, the paper attempts to compare urban and rural juvenile delinquency and victimization. The paper includes a comprehensive review of the existing literature and explores the differences in the environment, the prevalence of juvenile delinquency, and how the demographic and other factors influence juvenile offending and victimization in urban and rural settings.

Keywords:
juvenile
delinquency,
juvenile
victimization,
urban,
rural,
crime

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY CRIMINAL
JUSTICE AND SECURITY
PERSPECTIVES**



THE INFLUENCE OF URBANISATION ON THE OPINION OF THE SLOVENIAN POPULATION ON PROBATION

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Abstract Probation in Slovenia is a young state institution, as it has only been operating since 2018. In the broadest sense, probation means executing a criminal sanction in the community instead of in prison. The primary purpose of probation is for the convicted person to remain in their living environment during the execution of the criminal sanction. There are, of course, certain restrictions, as the public prosecutor, the court or the parole board imposes obligations that the person involved in probation must fulfil. Probation is aimed at helping, protecting and supervising a person on probation to guide the individual to such behaviour and establishing such life circumstances that lead to the abandonment of criminal behaviour and successful integration into the community. Probation also pursues the goal of greater security for society. In May 2021, we conducted a study on a sample of adult residents of Slovenia. We wanted to determine the extent to which the population of Slovenia knows the concept of probation and when and in what way they became acquainted with the concept. We analysed their attitude towards different ways of serving criminal sanctions in the community - community service, suspended sentence, and conditional release from prison with protective supervision and house arrest. In the study, we examined whether the urbanisation of the environment (we distinguished between rural, partially urbanised and urban environment) affects their attitude towards probation activities.

Keywords:

probation,
Slovenia,
public
opinion,
security
surveillance,
urbanisation



THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MULTISENSORY METHOD FOR EVALUATION OF THE SAFETY OF PUBLIC SPACES

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Abstract At the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor, as part of the Erasmus + KA3 Digital Skills for Integration and Active Citizenship (DISC), we are studying the use of multisensory space in integrating young people of the first and second generation of immigrants into the local environment. In this paper, we present another possible use of the multisensory space created at Laurea University of Applied Sciences in 2007. Multisensory space is usually created by the participants, where different elements can activate all of their five senses. Space can be used as an inspiring learning environment as well as a meeting place. Multisensory materials can evoke thoughts and memories that inspire dialogue between visitors. We propose that multisensory space can be used to elicit data about feelings and emotions connected to (already built or planned) public spaces. Via immersion in the (proposed) reality of the space, using the footage in the case of existing spaces or 3D virtual modelling in case of proposed plans, sounds, perhaps even smells (very important in public spaces like gardens), all the aspects, including safety concerns, can be discussed with the public. This information can be of great value to planners, designers and managers of public spaces to understand how the environment elicits emotional responses and can increase social contacts to ensure the wellbeing and social cohesion of people inhabiting it, which can effectively enhance the safety in public spaces.

Keywords:
public space,
multisensory
space,
sense of
safety,
social
cohesion

PSYCHOLOGICAL AUTOPSY: A POSSIBLE INNOVATIVE REVISION OF THE MAPI

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Abstract The purpose of this research is to propose an innovative technique of Psychological Autopsy. In comparison with the classic MAPI, our technique is structured on every single case adapting the interview according to the environmental circumstances and to the social-cultural characteristics of the examined subject and, not as last, the kind of gun used in the criminal event. According to us this way of Psychological Autopsy, improving the interviewee confidence and compliance, allows to get information that could escape to a standardized investigation. In one of the cold case that we have studied, this technique of Psychological Autopsy has allowed to get some biological material, coming from the crime scene, that had been secretly hidden from the subject for over 50 years.

Keywords:
psychological
autopsy,
criminology,
law,
MAPI

CHIMNEY FIRE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND RELATED CRIMINAL CONSEQUENCES – ANALYSIS OF THE JUDGMENT OF THE DISTRICT COURT IN TÁBOR

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Abstract The district Court in Tábor decided on a case where several contractors gradually repaired a large chimney. However, the last of them - the welder - did not proceed with due care and during the final works the chimney ignited, the damage caused by the fire amounted to about 20,000,000 Czech crowns. Given that the contract was concluded not with the welder, but with a small LLC, in which the welder was an executive and partner, in addition to the welder, this LLC has been prosecuted either. In addition to the prosecution, the court dealt with the question of causation, in which it answered whether the (possibly negligent) procedure of several previous contractors had caused the welder to be unable to carry out his work in such a way as to prevent fire, whether the behaviour of several previous contractors had the effect that the chimney fire eventually occurred, or whether the chimney fire occurred only as a result of the welder's failure to comply with appropriate safety precautions. It is necessary to mention that the chimney was located in the countryside, respectively in a small town, therefore, the question arises to what extent the fact that the individual contractors knew each other. The court also dealt with the question of related damages, where it did not refer to civil proceedings but decided on it itself. I will discuss all the above-mentioned issues addressed by the Court in my paper, bearing in mind that all contractors were small 'rural' entrepreneurs.

Keywords:

criminal
liability of
legal
entity,
causation,
damages,
rural
criminality

**ORGANISED CRIME – RURAL
PERSPECTIVES**



CHANGES IN RURAL DRUGS MARKETS IN THE UK

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Abstract The paper describes recent changes in rural drug dealing of class A drugs such as heroin and cocaine. The shift could be described as a transformation of the "corner shop" towards franchising arrangements akin to "supermarkets" whereby the local arrangements in rural towns have become replaced or subsumed by urban crime networks in the search for new markets. Unfortunately, these recent changes involved vulnerable children and younger adolescents in illicit drug trafficking and modern slavery. The paper draws upon empirical research which was commissioned by a local authority in an English County Town, previous research in five English cities and recent data from Regional enforcement units. The researchers analysed relevant quantitative data held by social welfare, health, educational and criminal justice agencies. Interviews were conducted with professionals from these agencies and three key informants previously involved in the illicit drugs trade. Two focus groups were conducted with professionals and three with gang-involved and gang-affected children and young people. The paper considers whether the emergence of this problem is simply a result of local rural contingencies or whether it represents the evolution and transformation of, the English street gang and the 'County Lines' model of drug distribution which will change rural youth crime and our responses to it irreversibly. In an attempt to answer this question the article considers different models of gang and drug market evolution and assesses their relevance to developments of rural crime and the responses to it.

Keywords:

rural
crime,
drugs
markets,
gangs

ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GROUPS – CRIMINOLOGY CONTEXT AND SECURITY PERSPECTIVES (CASE STUDY: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)

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Abstract This paper addresses two high profile organized criminal groups (OCGs) active in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had all elements of organized crime (OC). In the local, legal and, institutional context, this is highly important because, in practice, a clear distinction is not often made between those forms of a criminal organization that are OC and those that are not. The secondary analysis of the data contained in the court cases analyzed demonstrated a specific structure of the criminal organization, the commission of serious crimes, long-term activity, the acquisition of criminal proceeds, monopoly and social power. The OCGs established control over a particular area, manifesting a high level of violent crime, and focusing criminal activity on profitable activities. Since they operated in the same area (Sarajevo and East Sarajevo), the two groups closely cooperated during the same period (2005-2012). Their association with institutions was reflected in the established criminal connections, particularly to the police and the judiciary. The activity of the OCGs analyzed has been seen as a major security threat in the public discourse in BiH. The OCGs have instilled fear in the general public as well as distrust of institutional capacities, primarily the criminal justice system. The research results demonstrated legal gaps in terms of clear criteria based on which OCGs can be distinguished from other forms of criminal activity. Legal and institutional weaknesses create opportunities for OCGs to operate and create a sense of insecurity among the citizens in the already complex security environment.

Keywords:

organized
crime,
organized
criminal
groups,
criminology,
security

SMUGGLING IN BORDER AREAS AS A BRANCH OF THE ECONOMY

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Abstract With the emergence of new states in the former Yugoslavia, there was a change in borders, which included the formation of new state services to secure the state borders of the newly established states. Borders became more porous, border services were corrupt which was used by smugglers but also by state actors for the purpose of smuggling various types of goods. Such disruptions in work and border control have led to smuggling in border-mostly rural areas remaining the only occupation that locals could engage in. The rural areas of eastern and western Bosnia and Herzegovina were affected by mass smuggling activities. In the post-war period, the population from the border-rural areas continued to engage in the smuggling of high-tariff goods, and those who did not have the money to buy and resell the goods became so-called porters. They joined organized criminal groups for which they transported goods across inaccessible terrain, whole families were involved in this business. In the beginning, cigarettes, alcohol, art, etc. were smuggled, later drugs were transferred through the same smuggling channels, most often marijuana, and more recently a type of marijuana called skunk. Which led to the creation of criminal groups that became a threat to the security of the community and beyond. There has been an increase in homicides and violence in all border rural areas, and police are taking action to combat crime, but criminals are finding new ways to keep their jobs in these rural areas.

Keywords:

rural
areas,
smuggling,
threat

TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLICITY IN THE ACTIVITIES OF LITHUANIAN JUDGES AS A GUARANTEE FOR PUBLIC TRUST

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Abstract In this article, analyzing the content of publicity and transparency as the ethical principles of the Lithuanian judges the analysis of decisions of the Judicial Ethics and Discipline Commission (hereafter – JEDC) aims to show how these principles of judicial ethics are relevant and important in the practice and affect public confidence. The results of the analysis have shown that observance of these ethical principles has some peculiarities in the practice since the evaluation of the judge's behaviour includes other subjects. An examination of the decisions of the JEDC shows that there are cases of violations of these ethical principles in the activities of judges, indicating the viability of these ethical principles and their practical nature. After the changes in the legal regulation, society has become the direct evaluator of the behaviour of judges. The examination and updating of the professional ethics regulations of Lithuanian judges allow to highlight several new peculiarities. It identifies the place of human values in the activities of the judge: this activity is not only the expression of the legal provisions but also the expression of the common human supreme values. Ethics regulations of judges allow judging the authority of courts and judges in society. The system of values under analysis allows for an integral assessment that modern contexts should not be opposed to the creation of a highly reliable representation of this profession and, in reality, a transparent, objective, fair judge's activity allowing the public to have full confidence in the judiciary.

Keywords:
publicity and
transparency,
judicial
ethics
principles,
society,
trust





Conference Programme – A Biennial International Conference on Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe – Perspectives of Rural Safety, Security and Rural Criminology

Day 1 – Monday, 13 September 2021

12.00–12.20 Opening (Chair: Maja Modic)

Andrej Sotlar, Dean of the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security
Zdravko Kačič, Rector of the University of Maribor
Anton Olaj, Director General of the Slovenian Police
Uglješa Zvekić, Ambassador, Senior Advisor, Global Initiative against
Transnational Organized Crime
Gorazd Meško, Chairman of the Programme Committee

**12.25–13.05 25th anniversary of the biennial CJS in C&E Europe
conference – A tribute to organisers, supporters, and
participants (Chair: Maja Modic)**

Recognitions presented by *Andrej Sotlar*, Dean of the Faculty of
Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor and *Gorazd
Meško*, Chair of the conference
Jack Greene, On the biennial conference and international research of
the FCJS UM – Northeastern University, Boston, USA

13.10–13.50 Keynote I – Rural Criminology (Chair: Bojan Dobovšek)

“If you’re going to live, leave a legacy” – Rural criminology’s future
in a century no longer new
Joseph Donnermeyer

A project on local safety and security in rural settings in Slovenia –
Towards rural criminology
Gorazd Meško

13.55–14.15 **Featured presentation: The situation that changed everything
– COVID-19 and policing (Chair: Branko Lobnikar)**

A European perspective on policing during the COVID-19
pandemic
Sanja Kutnjak Ivkovich, Jon Maskaly, Peter Neyroud

14.20–15.00 **Keynote II – Rural and urban perspectives (Chair: Katja
Eman)**

Critical perspectives on policing rural environments: Cops, context,
communication and COVID-19
Andrew Wooff

Perception of rural (in)security and (un)safety among urban and rural
populations in Slovenia
Majda Černič Istenič

15.05–16.05 **Global Initiative roundtable on publishing in scientific
journals**

Publishing in international social science journals
*Discussants: Gorazd Meško, Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac, John Collins,
Ugheša Zvekić*

16.10–16.50 **Keynote III – Crime, social control and rural criminology
(Chair: Rok Hacin)**

Crime and social control in rural areas of Southern Russia
Anton Petrovskiy

Geographical information and GIS in rural criminology
Vania Ceccato

16.55–18.15 Organised crime and corruption – Global Initiative against transnational organised crime (Chair: Uglješa Zvekić)

Corruption and anti-corruption in the Western Balkans

Uglješa Zvekić, Sunčana Roksandić

Stronger together: Bolstering resilience among civil society in the Western Balkans

Kristina Amerhauser, Saša Dorđević

Cannabis in Albania: International and National Features

Fatjona Mejdini

Gateways to criminal markets in the Western Balkans

Fabian Zhilla, Walter Kemp

Organised crime in Slovenian rural environment

Boštjan Slak, Bojan Dobovšek

18.20–19.20 Virtual reception and summary of day 1

A short online concert and chat.

Day 2 – Tuesday, 14 September 2021

09.00–09.50 Cybersecurity perspectives (Chair: Igor Bernik)

Security changes for cyberspace users during COVID-19

Igor Bernik

Smart grid cybersecurity

Matjaž Trunkelj, Blaž Markelj

Cyber threats in Slovenian urban and rural environments

Gorazd Meško, Rok Hacin, Kaja Prislán

09.55–10.30 Plural policing (Chair: Kaja Prislan)

Residents attitudes towards plural policing institutions' contributions to security: Comparison between the urban and rural environment in Slovenia

Franc Vrtič, Kaja Prislan, Maja Modic, Miha Dvojmoč, Bernarda Tominc, Andrej Sotlar, Branko Lobnikar

The characteristics of the municipal or inter-municipal police department in the municipalities of the Republic of Slovenia and Hungary

László Christián, Miha Dvojmoč

10.35–11.25 Violence in the Balkans – Rural perspectives (Chair: Uglješa Zvekić)

Violence in the Balkans – Rural perspectives

Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac, Dalia Pribisalić

Characteristics of homicides in Slovenian urban and rural areas

Rok Hacin, Gorazd Meško

Balkan homicide study in Romania

Andra-Roxana Trandafir, Reana Bezjić

11.30–12.20 Rural policing (Chair: Katja Eman)

Rural crime and policing in the Pomurje region, Slovenia – A case study

Katja Eman

Comparing police visibility between urban and rural areas in Slovenia

Maja Modic, Vanja Erčulj

Police, text alert and community. Sketching the field of rural security in Ireland

Artur Pytlarz

12.25–13.45 Rural and environmental perspectives I (Chair: Katja Eman)

Agricultural vehicles – A new rising trend of property crimes in rural areas of Lithuania

Janina Juškevičiūtė, Snieguolė Matulienė

Protection of domestic animals by the Czech criminal law

David Čep

Crime related to new psychoactive substances in rural segregates of Miskolc in Hungary

Vári Vince

Flying low, performing high: The use of unmanned aerial systems in countering illicit waste trafficking

Sergio Bianchi, Sophie Kenneally

Environmental crime prosecution in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Trends and perspectives

Hajrija Sijerčić-Čolić, Haris Halilović, Nebojša Bojanić

13.50–15.20 Rural and environmental perspectives II (Chair: Katja Eman)

Water crimes and governance in Slovenia

Katja Eman, Gorazd Meško

Field guards in Hungary: Historical background, present overview and future perspectives

László Christián, József Bacsárdi

Environmental crime in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Legislation(s), judicial practice and statistics

Haris Halilović, Hajrija Sijerčić-Čolić, Elmedin Muratbegović, Muhamed Budimlić

Combating crime against human health and safety in rural areas

Velimir Rakočević, Aleksandra Jovanović

The illegal hunting phenomenon in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sandra Kobajica

15.25–16.30 Safety and security perspectives I (Chair: Bojan Tičar)

A »meta-right« in local context: The regulation and implementation of the right to security in local communities in Slovenia

Bojan Tičar, Benjamin Flander

Security specificities in rural areas

Mile Rakić, Ljubo Pejanović, Stevan Stojanović

Ensuring road safety: Specific peculiarities in the North Caucasus republics

Maria Reshnyak

Safety and security in local communities – An overview of research in Slovenia

Zala Osterč, Lana Rupar, Primož Novak, Jošt Meško

16.35–18.00 Safety and security perspectives II (Chair: Bojan Tičar)

Handling weapons as a source of security threats in the local environment

Bojan Tičar, Martin Muženič

The link between unemployment and criminality of burglary into weekend houses in the Czech Republic

Jan Břeň

Migrants and rural safety in Serbia: Whether Serbia protects migrants from coronavirus or population from migrants?

Veljko Turanjanin

Risk communication in case of unauthorized use of sulphites as a food additive

Elizabeta Mičović

Security of home – Crime prevention based on the community

Tatjana Gerginova

18.05–19.45 Violence in contemporary society (Chair: Danijela Frangež)

Sexual violence and harassment in nightlife entertainment spots in Slovenia – The media reports analysis

Tinkara Bulovec, Katja Eman

Gender-based violence in Croatia from the point of view of professional women

Anita Dremel, Renato Matić

Safety, regulations and the case law regarding blade-type weapons in Lithuania

Janina Juškevičiūtė, Rūta Sirvydė

Facing hate crimes and hate speech in Lithuania: Problems, challenges and the case law

Snieguolė Matulienė, Janina Juškevičiūtė, Rūta Sirvydė

The use of forensic evidence in investigating of criminal offences against sexual integrity: A structured review of Slovenian literature

Robert Praček, Tomaž Zupanc, Danijela Frangež

The assessment of judges and professionals on an investigative interview with children victims of sexual abuse

Husejin Batman

Day 3 – Wednesday, 15 September 2021

09.00–10.05 Domestic violence I (Chair: Branko Lobnikar)

Assessment of the implementation of international recommendations, guidelines, and directives in the field of domestic violence in Slovenia

Branko Lobnikar, Karmen Jereb, Kaja Prislan, Boštjan Slak

The violence against parents and violence against the elderly:
Relation, similarities, differences
Monika Klun, Aleš Bučar Ručman, Danijela Frangež

Women victims of violence: Social functioning and seeking support
Tinkara Pavšič Mrevlje, Vanja Ida Erčulj

Etiological-phenomenological dimension of domestic violence in
rural Serbia: The place matters
Snežana Soković, Višnja Randelović

10.10–11.35 Domestic violence II (Chair: Vanja Erčulj)

Criminal legal aspects of combating domestic violence with special
reference to the crime of partner homicide – Perspectives of Serbia
and Croatia
Saša Mijalković, Dragana Čvorović, Hrvoje Filipović, Elena Tilovska – Kečedji

Family violence as a form of criminality and rural security
perspectives in the Republic of Serbia
Ljubo Pejanović, Stevan Stojanović, Radoje Stojanović

Socio-structural and cultural determinants of emotional abuse of
children in families in rural areas
Milan Počuča, Jelena Matijašević Obradović

Women in need and women in deed – Online social support among
women, victims of violence
Vanja Ida Erčulj, Tinkara Pavšič Mrevlje

Children's house – A comprehensive treatment of juvenile victims
and witnesses
Mojca Rep

11.40–12.15 ISRD – Rural and urban juvenile delinquency and victimization (Chair: Iza Kokoravec)

Characteristics of self-reported delinquency in rural areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mubamed Budimlić, Almir Maljević, Elmedin Muratbegović

Juvenile delinquency and victimization: Urban vs rural environment

Iza Kokoravec, Gorazd Meško

12.20–13.25 Multidisciplinary criminal justice and security perspectives (Chair: Danijela Frangež)

The influence of urbanisation on the opinion of the Slovenian population on probation

Emanuel Banutai, Danijela Mrhar Prelić, Branko Lobnikar

The effectiveness of the multisensory method for evaluation of the safety of public spaces

Eva Bertok, Danijela Frangež

Psychological autopsy: A possible innovative revision of the MAPI

Franco Posa, Valeria Rondinelli, Jessica Leone

Chimney fire in the countryside and related criminal consequences – Analysis of the judgment of the District Court in Tábor

Jan Mahý

13.30–14.35 Organised crime – Rural perspectives (Chair: Bojan Dobovšek)

Changes in rural drugs markets in the UK

Paul Andell

Organized criminal groups – Criminology context and security perspectives (Case study: Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Mile Štikman, Velibor Lalić

Smuggling in border areas as a branch of the economy

Safet Mušić

Transparency and publicity in the activities of Lithuanian judges as a guarantee for public trust

Žaneta Navickienė, Aurelijus Gutauskas

14.40

Closing of the conference (Chairs: Gorazd Meško and Bojan Dobovšek)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: PERSPECTIVES OF RURAL SAFETY, SECURITY AND RURAL CRIMINOLOGY, BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Abstract Conference proceedings consist of abstracts of conference papers presented at the 13th international biennial conference on Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe organised by the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security of the University of Maribor, Slovenia. The conference was held online between 13 and 15 September 2021. A lead topic of the conference is rural criminology and perspectives such as deviance, crime and social control activities, and provision of safety and security. At the conference, 68 papers were presented by 116 authors from 22 countries. A celebration of the 25th anniversary of the international biennial conference took place. The conference proves an active and fruitful international research activities of the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security of the University of Maribor.

Keywords:

criminal justice, criminal justice and security studies, criminology, conference, Central and Eastern Europe, rural criminology



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