

Crime and crime investigation activity in 1999

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In 1999 there was an increase of all criminal offences known to the police, a trend which was continued from the previous years. Police officers and criminal investigators submitted complaints to the public prosecutor for 62,836 criminal offences committed by known and unknown suspects that is 13.1 per cent more than in the previous year, which was a record year in regard to recorded crime. The highest number of criminal offences ever recorded within a single year is on the one hand a result of a worsened security situation and, on the other hand, a result of an apparent statistical increase, reflecting a gradual shift of minor criminal offences known to the police to the official crime statistics (a looser interpretation of proceedings for the prosecution of offenders at the request of victims), as well as a result of complaints filed ahead of time for criminal offences not yet cleared but which otherwise could no longer be recorded by the police, due to the introduction of a new information system at the end of 1999.

The fact that the police investigated crime in a harsher security situation than a year ago is indicated by the data on criminal offences, the number of which does not depend upon the method of recording crime nor on the legal ground for their prosecution. The structure of criminal offences handled indicates, in comparison to the previous year, an increase in the number of homicides, assaults and aggravated assaults, robberies, burglaries, illegal passages of the state border and narcotic drug abuse.

Police officers successfully investigated 29,285 or 46.6 per cent of all handled offences and complaints were filed for 37,436 suspects or 1.3 percent less than in the previous year. The rate of cleared offences has diminished in comparison to the previous year by 5.5 percentage points. A rise in the total number of handled criminal offences has statistically diminished the rate of cleared offences, because the investigation capacities of the police have not been substantially changed within this period of time.

Keywords: crime, crime statistics, criminal offences, charged suspects, the police, crime investigation activity

UDC: 343.3/.7 (497.4) "1999"