Wealth of states and response to crime

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The wealth of a given country is generally estimated by the extent of income per inhabitant. This figure seems particularly important at the time of Slovenia's accession to Europe. UN professionals many years ago developed some additional criteria for measuring the wealth and poverty which offer a surprising picture. Countries which are considered in accordance with common criteria to be rich are with regard to these new criteria in fact poor. If we compare the scale of wealth and poverty formulated on the basis of these new criteria, with the response of these countries to crime, statistical calculations of correlation offer quite amazing results. According to the new methodology, the poorer the country, the more repressive is its reaction to social marginality. Moreover, the influence of Western countries on the creation of poverty in countries in transition is far larger than is imagined. This can be partially attributed to the inadequate mechanisms of control over investments and partially to the fact that differences between rich and poor parts of the population in many of Western democracies have become a part of the system of values, resulting in a desensitisation of developed countries to the issue of poverty. Countries in transition have to decide whether a social component will be incorporated in their economic development, implying also a tolerant reaction to crime or they will allow the values of unrestricted market liberalism to prevail, leading to the formation of an underclass, together with correspondent delinquency and an increasingly repressive response to marginal social groups. This last will very soon be reflected in an increase in conviction rates.