

Crime and crime investigation activities in 2005

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Statistical data on crime are taken from the frozen computer bases loaded in the central computer, in which the police, under the provisions of the Police Act, maintain records of notified criminal offences, records of persons against whom the police have laid charges and recorded criminal offences. The frozen bases enable annual comparison of data, although they are not complete, because they do not contain subsequent findings on criminal offences and persons, recorded after the freezing of data for each annual period. Basically, these data present the activity of the police, and only to a lesser extent, the security situation in the area of crime.

Methods for following crime situation are in developed countries included in models for measuring the effects of police activity, and are based on a system of crime indexes, consideration of criminal events and results of public opinion polls and victimization surveys. The characteristics of Slovene crime are still currently established on the basis of police records. Quantitative analysis is made possible on the basis of the crime index, composed of recorded criminal offences with a relatively high degree of crime reporting. The crime index and qualitative analysis of other data demonstrate that the number of traditionally and emotionally determined violent crimes has been gradually decreasing, while the number of criminal offences committed for the sake of gain and due to addiction to prohibited drugs, has been increasing, which can be attributed to the contemporary, increasingly fast way of life and changes of social values.

In 2005, the police laid charges and reports supplementing these charges before prosecuting agencies in relation to 84,379 (86,568) criminal offences, committed in this and previous years. After the increase in a few past years, the number of criminal offences handled decreased by 2.5 percent. By the smaller extent of processed crime, the rate of cleared crimes has also lightly fallen from 39.5 to 39.0 percent. Among individual types of crime, there was a decrease in crimes against life and limb, sexual offences and property offences; on the other hand, there has been an increase in the number of criminal offences committed by juveniles as well as organized and economic crime.

Key words: crime, measurement of crime rate, crime statistics, criminal offences, suspects, the police, crime investigation activities, Slovenia

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