

Drug-related Criminality in Slovenia: A Statistical Analysis Highlighting Cannabis

Kristina Čufar, Ph.D., Research Associate, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana, Assistant Professor of Sociology of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. ORCID: 0000-0002-0688-1094.
E-mail: kristina.cufar@pf.uni-lj.si

Dean Lipovac, Ph.D., Research Associate, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies, University of Primorska, Slovenia. ORCID: 0000-0001-8413-2032. E-mail: dean.lipovac@inst-krim.si

Criminal offences related to prohibited drugs represent a complex societal challenge, as their occurrence is influenced by numerous factors, including the characteristics and circumstances of the individuals involved, the specifics of different drugs, recidivism, and the activities of organized criminal groups. The most widespread and socially accepted prohibited drug in Slovenia and elsewhere is cannabis. In line with the changing social and legal status of cannabis, this article pays special attention to the specificities of crime associated with this plant and its derivatives. The article presents an in-depth statistical analysis of publicly available data on criminal complaints from the Slovenian police, as well as data on charges and convictions obtained from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. It examines the criminal offences related to the illicit manufacture and trade in illicit drugs and facilitating the consumption of illicit drugs. The results show that the number of drug-related criminal offences in Slovenia has been declining in recent years, consistent with the overall decline in crime. Drug-related crime accounts for a small share of all criminal offences, with cannabis playing a major role. Individuals involved in drug-related criminal offences differ in several ways from those involved in offences not related to drugs and crime associated with cannabis differs from crime involving other prohibited drugs. The findings contribute to a better understanding of the various dimensions of criminal offences related to illicit drugs in general and specifically in relation to cannabis, offering a starting point for the evaluation of crime policies and further research in this area.

Keywords: illicit drugs, cannabis, crime, statistical analysis, Slovenia

UDC: 343.9:343.575