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Crime in Slovenia in 2016

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This paper focuses on crime statistics, which were investigated by the Slovenian police, and changes and factors that have influenced them in their work. These data comprise only those criminal offences detected by the police, and consequently do not fully reflect the security situation in the country during the last year. The fight against economic crime was one of the priorities of the police, especially in the areas of increased risk of economic crime and corruption (banking, public authorities, health care, and protection of the financial interest of the EU). The National Investigation Bureau investigated demanding and complex forms of crime related to the banking sector and corporate crime in connection with abuses of financial instruments, acquisition of companies, capital increases and other illegal transactions. The Police, together with Europol, projects of the European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats, and other foreign and domestic authorities fighting international organised and other serious forms of crime.

The Slovenian police investigated 61,574 criminal offences in 2016 (68,810 in 2015), which is 10.5% less than in the year before. The proportion of criminal offences that police have detected by its own activity decreased from 15.2% to 13.5% (1.7%). The share of criminal offenses investigated decreased from 52.0% to 48.3% (3.7%). The Police estimated that damage caused by these criminal offences amounted to 590.9 million euros (454.9 in 2015), which represents an increase of 29.9% over the prior year. They investigated 18.8% fewer economic crimes than in the year before. The proportion of economic crime decreased from 18.2% to 16.2%. In general, 8.7% fewer criminal offences were detected than in previous year, and 42.1% of criminal offences were investigated (45.6% in 2015). The scope of criminal offences against sexual integrity increased 38.0%, while juvenile crime decreased by 3.0%. The Police dealt with 1.6% more criminal offences against the economy than in the year before. A ten-year comparison revealed that the numbers of criminal offences, investigated criminal offences, and criminal offences detected by the police, significantly decreased in the last two years.

Keywords: crime, statistical data, criminal offences, police, police work, Slovenia

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Self-legitimacy of Police Officers in Slovenia – A Comparison between Studies in 2013 and 2016

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The paper presents the results of a study of self-legitimacy of Slovenian police officers comparing two studies on legitimacy and self-legitimacy of police officers that were conducted in 2016 (n = 478) and 2013 (n = 529) at the same Slovenian police stations, using the same measurement instrument. The main objective of this paper was to examine the views of police officers regarding their legitimacy and importance to society and to gain insight into the dynamics of the self-legitimacy concept over time. The results showed that perceptions of distributive justice (police officers' satisfaction with their salary) in 2016 increased in comparison with the year 2013. Nevertheless, this factor is still the lowest among all other included indicators. Statistically significant and positive differences were identified in the assessment of supervisors' procedural justice and in the area of loyalty to the police organisation. Police officers also highly assessed their procedural justice, although this factor in 2016 slightly decreased. An interesting dynamic emerged mainly in self-legitimacy; in both periods police officers have very highly assessed moral justification of their powers, but in the recent study this belief has been significantly reduced. The results of the study in 2016, also show that police officers are more convinced of having enough authority to perform their duties and the ability to legally and legitimately exercise police powers. In the discussion of this paper, findings of our comparative study are placed in the context of recent social and institutional changes.

Keywords: self-legitimacy, procedural justice, pro-organisational behaviour, police officers, Slovenia

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(Forced) Water Resources Privatization – A New Form of Crime against Water (and People) in Terms of Critical Green Criminology

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Man's close connection with water derives from the very beginning of human existence, but the view of it has changed throughout history. While free access to water was up to modern times a matter of course, water in the modern world can be seen in two different aspects: as a natural resource that can be accessed by anyone who needs it, or as an economic commodity that has its own financial value and the price set by the economic market. It is this economic aspect of water, in the time when water scarcity is on the rise that increases the motivation of private companies for the purchase of water resources since, regardless of the fact that we are all creatures who are dependent on water, thus providing inexhaustible profits. The latter is very problematic, especially in regards to the violation of the fundamental human right to water – amenities they need for their survival. Due to the lack of regulation (or countries' indifference), water resources in the world are not managed in a way that would allow the sustainable existence of water and access to it by everyone. The authors, on the basis of cases analysis, raise the issue of often forced privatization of water in the usually poor, but with water resources, rich countries, and the water management. They raise the issue of dysfunctional legislation on water protection, which can lead to individual violations or crimes affecting water. These crimes are discussed from the green criminological viewpoint, which draws attention to this growing problem and growing threat to water and people. Finally, the weaknesses and failings of water resources privatization are discussed, which are closely linked to the crimes of the rich and powerful, such as criminal enterprises, and state or local authorities, which are often involved in the exploitation or management of water resources.

Keywords: water, water privatisation, right to water, (critical) green criminology

UDC: 556.18

Algorithmic Surveillance: Big Data, Algorithms, and Social Control

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This paper focuses on the uses and consequences of big data and predictive analytics in social control. After tackling the issue of defining “big data”, the paper presents the implications of big data in the production of knowledge. It then focuses on selected domains of informal and formal social control, such as policing and criminal justice systems, which are being reshaped by big data and predictive analytics. By focusing on the impacts of predictive analytics on economic-political systems and democratic processes, the author claims that democracy and the rule of law are being reshaped into an “algorocracy” – the rule of the algorithm. This paper then focuses on automatization in policing and criminal justice settings by presenting specific predictive analytics already in use or in testing in pre-trial detention, sentencing, and parole procedures. It concludes by presenting the negative consequences of big data and predictive analytics in social control and by offering remedies for such.

Keywords: algorithms, big data, predictive policing, automated justice

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Perception of Corruption in Slovenian State Administration

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Zero tolerance towards corruption and related disclosure of irregularities is more frequently a subject of discussions than serious attempts to determine its magnitude in state administration. Consequently, a survey was conducted among civil servants on the perception of corruption based on the model of Transparency International. Civil servants, as drafters of legislation and especially as (in)direct participants in the exercise of public power, more frequently detect irregularities, as they are reported by the media, or are perceived through a system-oriented work in this area. In the context of our research, it was found that perception of the general state of corruption in Slovenia is higher than the global average. Slovenian civil servants believe that the government is under the influence of interest groups and that its effectiveness decreases. As the most corrupt, they exposed the political parties, media and the health care system, and the military, NGOs, and police as the least corrupt.

Keywords: perception of corruption, state administration, civil servants, Global Corruption Barometer, Transparency International

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