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# **An Overview of Criminological Research on Violence in Slovenia Since 1991**

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Violence is a phenomenon that has been present in every human society since the emergence of the first communities. Currently, it represents an urgent problem of modern society. Not only who and how or against whom violence is caused, the important questions refer also as to why does violence emerge and in what way it could be avoided. The purpose of this paper is to present an overview of research on violence in Slovenia since 1991. During the last 16 years, over 30 studies were conducted that focused on different forms of violence in Slovenia. Despite the fact that the majority of them focused on physical and sexual violence, research on other forms of violence has not been neglected (institutional violence, psychological violence etc.). Slovenian researchers focused on domestic and juvenile violence (a large number of studies), and developments in the region in the 1990s (Balkan wars) influenced the study of special forms of violence that usually present taboo subjects in modern societies. In the 21st century, new forms of crime (e.g. cybercrime, environmental crime etc.) influenced researchers to explore new forms of violence in Slovenia. Violence is sometimes difficult to detect and study, as it is evolving in accordance with changes in the environment. Violence between partners, violence in health care, institutional violence, bullying and violence in the workplace, including sexual violence, are seen as areas of future research on violence in Slovenia.

**Keywords:** crime, criminology, violence, research, Slovenia

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## **Domestic Violence as a Risk Ractor of Bullying**

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Bullying is a phenomenon which exists in every school. Available research on the scale of bullying in Slovenia shows that approximately 20% of children get bullied, while about 9% of children are violent toward peers themselves. Risk factors of bullying on individual and societal levels are numerous, the latter including domestic violence, and studies show a correlation between experience of domestic violence and violent behaviour toward peers. This link was also demonstrated in our previous study which included 271 pupils from 6th to 9th grade. Three questionnaires were utilized: 1) the Scale of aggression for students (AG-UD), 2) the Family scale, and 3) the Bullying in school scale (LMNŠ). The results confirm that pupils who experience domestic violence are more likely to report destroying things, making threats, disseminating rumours about others online, report purposefully destroying friendships among peers, hitting or kicking peers, and forcing peers into doing something against their will, than are their peers. Results also indicate that the more family members of pupils understood each other and spent time together, the less aggressive behaviour was reported by them. This underlines the fact that before designing programs to deal with bullying, we must first understand how school and family life together form the identity of the bully.

**Keywords:** bullying, domestic violence, risk factors of bullying, aggression

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## **Life and Death in the Criminological Perspective**

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Modern political power justifies itself as the guardian angel of its citizens. By monopolizing the means of legal and legitimate force (at least formally and at the highest level), it protects them from foreign and internal enemies. The humanist state also safeguards the lives of murderers (if they are not of the terrorist kind), for it refuses to use the death penalty. Because of the extreme respect of human existence in its “naked” or biological form, the state does not concede the individual’s right to euthanasia and assisted suicide. Disavowal of the right to autonomous, meaningful death is surely cruelty *par excellence*. In the criminological perspective, the ardent desire of people for the good life or happiness is generally more important than their tendency towards self-preservation. But this, unfortunately, is a very difficult aim. Too many follow it by criminal (legal and illegal) means, e.g. by exploitation, plundering, frauds, thievery, extortion, bribery, and usury, or even by direct or indirect, active or passive, killing of human beings. After all, the well-being of humanity makes it possible to enjoy extremely popular permitted and prohibited psychoactive substances. The purpose of this article is to analyse the most problematic aspects of social control connected to life and death of human beings. It pays particular attention to the blurring boundaries between “good” (socially accepted) and “bad” (legally forbidden) causations of death, and on the criminogenic and criminal ways of pursuing or attaining happiness.

**Keywords:** killing, death, life, happiness, suffering, drugs

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## **Determinants that influence the rate of corruption**

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Corruption is a phenomenon that we encounter daily, and its negative influences on the economy and beyond (politics, judiciary, health care etc.) are well known and the subject of several studies. In this paper, we focus on the determinants that influence the generation of corruption or act as inhibitors. Analysis of the world countries, taking into account their ranking on the Corruption Perception Index, published every year by Transparency International, revealed the main determinants that influence the level of corruption in each group of countries. Moreover, similarities and differences between individual groups of countries were examined, with the intention to identify the determinants that influence the levels of corruption. The basic model of three determinants (risk, benefit, and perception), is based on merging several well-known and scientifically validated determinants that generate or reduce corruption or influence its rate in individual countries. Based on the corruption rate, five classes were identified, in which countries were classified and analyzed in order to identify common characteristics. In the discussion, the results of the study were compared with results of previous research, to determine the differences and discrepancies

**Keywords:** corruption, determinants, risk, benefit, consciousness

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## **Sentencing Procedures**

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Even though sentencing is a hot topic among academics, very few authors embark on analysing procedural rules that guide the sentencing process. The question of sentencing procedure, the part of the criminal procedure specifically poised to determine the circumstances relevant to producing a just sentence, is not merely an afterthought. Often enough, it is the procedure that (at least partly) determines the outcome. This paper questions some of the more important issues with regard to different systems of sentencing procedures. The key difference between common law and continental systems, the question of a bifurcated or a uniform procedure, with or without the separation of the verdict and sentencing phases, are most thoroughly analysed. However, other issues seem relevant as well, such as the question of standards of proof, the judgment's substantiation, and of legal remedies.

**Keywords:** sentencing, procedure, punishment, mitigating and aggravating circumstances, substantiation, standard of proof

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## **Analysis of the Impact of Self-Efficacy on the Perception of Work Engagement of Slovenian Police Officers**

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Work engagement represents a contemporary concept in human resource management, and describes a situation where an employee is emotionally, intellectually, and cognitively committed to the organization where he/she works. Based on the assessment of employee engagement, we can predict the overall success of the organization. Despite the fact that the Police is a not-for-profit organisation, studies have shown that the work engagement of police officers is related to the level of security in the country. In this paper, the authors analyse the level of police officers' work engagement and the factors related to it. The study was carried out on a sample of 739 Slovenian police officers, and results indicated that the majority of Slovenian police officers was not engaged (56.97%), one-third of them were actively not engaged (32.20%), and only one-tenth of police officers was engaged. Moreover, results showed that workplace engagement is associated with police officers' emotional state, indirect experience, and their own work experience. In the conclusion of the paper, the authors propose some organizational and managerial measures, which could reinforce sources of self-efficacy of Slovenian police officers.

**Keywords:** police officers, self-efficacy, engagement, Slovenia

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## **Private Detective Activities in the Republic of Slovenia – (Normative) Development and Future Outlook**

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The purpose of this paper is to present detective activities in the Republic of Slovenia and to show how it has developed, with an emphasis on law regulation and its evolution. Descriptive and survey methods were used, which assisted us in analysing and presenting detective work and detective activity. In addition, we analysed the content of written sources, reviewed scientific literature and laws, and conducted a comparative analysis of the laws. Detective activity is a subject of internal security and falls into private security practice, and as such, is regulated by law and requires a systemic arrangement as well as effective control. The first law was enacted in 1994, and a new law adopted in 2011 brought changes in the field of activities, while the conditions for the occupation were defined more clearly and precisely. The legislator could, through more flexible legislation, enable a higher quality of services, thus making detective activities more effective. Due to the increasing number of fraud, cheating and other types of criminal offenses in the countries of Western Europe, detectives specialize in a particular work-field, while in Slovenia specialization is not so pronounced, and detectives deal mainly with general information gathering. A detective relies on his experience, knowledge, and ingenuity. The needs of detective activities should be based primarily on future research that actually determines both legal and operational needs of detectives.

**Keywords:** detective, detective activity, activity development, legislation, research

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## **Forensic Accreditation in European Countries: Current Situation**

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The article presents the current situation in the field of accreditation of forensic laboratories in European countries according to the standards ISO 17025 and ISO 17020. The importance of the accreditation in forensics is presented through the use of Council Framework Decision 2009/905/JHA (2009) which is connected to the accreditation of forensic laboratories in the member states of the European Union, with the special account on accreditation methods of DNA and dactyloscopy. Actual problems in relation to forensics in European countries are presented also from the view of the organizational position of forensic laboratories. The article includes also a detailed presentation of accredited forensic methods in European countries, both by the standard ISO 17025 and standard ISO 17020. In conclusion, the goal of accreditation of forensic activities in Europe is presented, i.e. implementation of obligations of the Council of Europe decisions summarized in the *European Forensic Sciences 2020 (EFSA 2020)*.

**Keywords:** forensic laboratory, accreditation, standard ISO 17025, standard ISO 17020

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