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On the sixtieth anniversary of the Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology

Sixty years of continuous professional and scientific coverage of Slovenian criminal investigation and criminological thought is a respectable achievement. There are only a few criminological journals (or indeed other serial publications in sociology) that can pride themselves upon such a tradition. The Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology (*Revija za kriminalistiko in kriminologijo*) has rich history both in terms of organisation and contents. It was first published as a confidential bulletin of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia entitled Criminal Investigation Service (*Kriminalistična služba*), which served for the analysis of criminal investigation cases. Soon after the start of the publication of the bulletin, criminological topics started to be discussed as well, which in the long run brought about the change of the publication's name. As in numerous socialist countries at the time, Slovenia's view of criminal investigation was strictly confidential at first and only later to be followed by "publicly available" criminal investigation.

From the issue of its first number up to the present day, the Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology has been following and documenting the development of discussions on crime, perpetrators of crimes, prevention and suppression of crime and crime statistics, as well as various attempts to measure deviations, acting as a medium for the transfer of foreign knowledge to the Slovenian professional and scientific environment and for the publication of top-level achievements of Slovenian criminologists, crime investigators and others engaged in the study of various types of deviations, delinquency, crime, criminal policy and various forms of social supervision.

The predecessor of the Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology, Criminal Investigation Service, started to be published in 1950 by the Ministry of the Interior with a view to achieving greater professionalism of investigators in the field of crime. As early as then, the significance and power of the written word in the development of professional expertise in social supervision was appreciated at the Ministry of the Interior. The first number of Criminal Investigation Service was issued in August 1950 while the year 1959 saw the renaming of the publication to the Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology.

The Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology has been accompanying the development of the Slovenian criminological thought and the field of research called 'criminology and social work', which encompasses both criminological and criminal investigation research. An overview of contributions that have been published in the journal over the last sixty years bears witness to a variety of research interests and views of crime, as well as the development of discussions, reflections and research in the criminological field. Criminal investigation was comprehensively covered in the first decade when *Vlado Vidic* published over 20 contributions dealing with criminal investigation, the achievement that was never repeated in the decades to follow. After 1960, the journal became predominantly criminological while the number of articles on criminal investigation decreased considerably. In the sixties, certain criminologists dealt with criminal investigation topics as well, although this practice was later discontinued. In the years to follow, criminal investigation topics were featured less frequently. In his contribution on the development of criminal investigation in Slovenia, *Darko Maver* observes that criminal investigation articles in the Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology have represented 14 % of all publications over the last sixty years.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the editors, editors-in-chief, editors-in-charge and technical editors, reviewers, proofreaders and of course authors of contributions, who have all contributed to the development of the Slovenian criminal investigation and criminological thought. The commitment and perseverance of the editors, who have endeavoured for high quality articles and contributions published in the journal, providing expert knowledge in the multidisciplinary field of criminal research, is particularly worth mentioning. In 2002, the journal was classified among the secondary bases while in 2008 it was indexed in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), which means that it was classified among the best criminological journals worldwide in the Criminology

and Penology category. Beside writers, the most important persons in the development of the Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology have indeed been editors-in-chief, editors-in-charge and their collaborators. Its first editor was *Anton Gorjup*, who had also initiated the publishing of the bulletin Criminal Investigation Service and the newsletter Security (Varnost). In 1968, the editor-in-charge became *Dr. Janez Pečar*, who handled the editing policy until late 1993, when *Dr. Darko Maver* became editor-in-charge and is still managing the journal. The editors-in-chief have been considerably higher in number, given the fact that this position has been filled by directors of the criminal investigation service, whose task it has been to make sure that the journal is issued four times a year. In addition to the editors, an important role has been played by proof-readers. *Marinka Milenković* as a proof reader, redactor and editing assistant, and *Ivanka Sket*, who has helped in ensuring the quality of contribution abstracts and in technical layout of the journal, made a significant contribution in the development of the journal as well. I would like to emphasise that each and every member of editorial boards has always made great efforts to ensure the quality of the journal.

For the small Slovenian criminological and criminal investigation community, the Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology represents an outstanding achievement, for which I would like to congratulate all the editors, proofreaders, redactors, editing assistants, members of editorial boards and of course writers, who with their high quality articles have been providing the Slovenian professional and scientific public with information in the field of criminology, criminal investigation and a broader research field.