

# Mapping the Criminological Landscape of the Balkans

The Max-Planck Institute for Foreign and International  
Criminal Law & The Faculty of Law - University of  
Zagreb

28-30<sup>th</sup> August 2014, Zagreb, Croatia

**CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIME IN GREECE**

by

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# Criminological Education in Greece

## Graduate studies

is provided by 10 departments in seven -7- major institution and the Police Schools

## Postgraduate studies in 4 Universities

- ONLY The Sociology Department of Panteion University offers a two-year master exclusively in Criminology (MA since 1985-86);
- the 3 Law faculties offer a two-year master course “Penal and Criminological Studies”, with a separate criminology direction in the second year of studies.

The **curricula** (optional) cover a wide range of topics

- **crime theory and deviance;**
- **criminal justice &**
- **various more specialised topics**

**One semester Practice training** during graduate studies in public institutions (e.g. after care of prisoners; drug rehabilitation centres), NGOs (e.g. for immigrants; homeless and abused children) and Charities

# 3 major Schools of thought

- a) Liberal juristic criminology** (obsolete)
- b) Liberal positivistic criminology** (the most empirical studies)
- c) Critical criminology** (theoretically dominant)

# Theories & research stand

Although the **whole spectrum of theories**, policy trends, international stand of discussion **is known and depicted in textbooks and teaching**, their concretisation in national research topics and their realisation is very limited.

Most criminological studies are **quantitative**, followed by secondary theoretical overviews

# Surveys & Journals

- In **ICVS** survey sweeps only once 2004/2005
- **European Social Survey** in all rounds apart from the ESS3-2006
- In the **ISRD** sweeps, never
- In the **EMCDDA** reports & studies, the Greek Documentation and Monitoring Centre for Drugs-National REITOX Focal Point with regular reports
- Huge difficulties confronting the regular **publication of a journal**
- **Workshops & meetings rare.**
- **No awards** for distinguished work

# Empirical research

## No major institutions conducting criminological research

- Small research centres or laboratories, and practical training in criminology exist in all three law schools that teach criminology and in Dpt. of Sociology/ Panteion Univ.
- Serious financial and staff problems
- PhD theses cover a broad range of themes; self-contained research projects



# Empirical criminological research remains fragmented and unambitious

This can be attributed to

- **Lack of resources**
- **Limited state awareness**
- **Indifference of the private sector**
- **Reluctance of public sector organizations to cooperate** until the late 1990s
- **General lack of interest in cooperation among the universities**



**Strategic planning about the priorities and significance of criminological topics that should be examined is missing**

- Personal or group research has become more common, yet they remain fragmentary
- In recent years some change with the Master's theses, because they have to follow certain themes/topics

*Research interests also depend on European and international trends of the time (e.g., corrections in the 1990s, organised crime, social exclusion, immigration after 2000, etc.).*

# Crime, Media & Politics

## Criminality is not high in the agenda of the media and politicians

- When criminality rates were not particularly high and not (yet) a serious issue of concern, the media referred to it with each opportunity, sometimes with sensationalist reports
- After 2008, when crime started spreading at an **alarming rate and property and violent crimes multiplied**, the media referred only peripherally to them

# The major problems of Greece's criminal justice system

- **Overburdened court dockets**
- **Prison overcrowding (and increasing prison violence)**

# JUSTICE

- The 3member courts changed to one member courts;
- New laws (2003, 2005, 2010) introduced reforms, i.e. mediation, plea bargaining

# PRISONS

- **New prisons** (26 --> 33).
- Efforts for **expanding** the implementation of **community service**, restoration and **mediation programmes**.
- **The limits**
  - for the suspension of the prison sentences,
  - for conversion of a prison sentence into a fine,
  - for parole (“conditional release”) **decrease from time to time**, and
- **More lenient regulations for early release because of work** have been issued.
- The **upper level of pretrial detention** was reduced from 18 to 12 months for felonies
- **electronic monitoring/home detention**

# Prison violence

Recently issued law about **maximum security prisons (and units) for high risk offenders**, i.e. **convicted or suspects of terrorist acts**, offences against the security of the state, **members of organised crime groups** who have committed serious violent crimes (homicides, robberies, extortions), and **prisoners who have committed serious disciplinary offences in prison**, e.g. aggravated assaults and homicide against the prison staff or other inmates, riot, abscond.

# Final remarks

## Encouraging

- The growing participation of criminologists in committees and work groups
- That the positions of criminologists in higher education are not being reduced

## But this is not enough

- Continuous and systematic efforts
- to intervene more as a scientific community
  - for the establishment of the criminological profession in social life





Thank you

Hvala vam što ste

Ευχαριστώ