

# **Criminology in Slovenia with Focus on Experiences from Regional Research Endeavours**

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# **Slovenian criminology and criminal justice research – present time**

- Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana
- Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana
- Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security Studies, University of Maribor (located in Ljubljana).

# Criminology - teaching

- Faculty of Law in Ljubljana (criminology an optional subject)
- Faculty of Law in Maribor (no criminology anymore)
- FE - Social education (criminology subjects – BA and MA programmes)
- FCJS – 60% of criminology

# Slovenian criminology textbooks

- Maklecov – Introduction to Criminology (1947), in Slovene
- Kobal, Bavcon, Skalar et al. – Criminology(1966), in Croatian
- Šelih – Criminology for Lawyers (1990), in Slovene
- Meško – Introduction to Criminology (1998), in Slovene
- Kanduč – Criminology - Sideways of the Science about Sideways (1999), in Slovene
- Meško – Criminology (2006, 2010), in Slovene

# Slovenian criminology

- Before WW2 (Maklecov – research; Milčinski – novels).
- After WW 2 (Ministry of the Interior, 1950 – 1954; Institute of Criminology -1954 - ; Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security and its predecessors – 1973 - ).
- **Scientific Journals:**
  - Journal of criminal investigation and criminology (1951/1959 - ), Ministry of the Interior, SSCI (IF 0.69, 2013)/Scopus (one issue a year in English)
  - Social education (1997 - ), Faculty of Education, UL.
  - Journal of Criminal Justice and Security (1999 - ), Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, two issues a year in English.

# Development of (comparative) criminology/CJ in SE Europe

- Criminology and criminal justice research in C&E Europe - challenges (De Nike, Howard J., Uwe Ewald, and Christopher J. Nowlin. 1995. **Crime in East Europe: recent reflections from the eastern academy**) & Joutsen, Matti. 1995. "Crime Trends in Central and Eastern Europe.").
- Comparative research in Europe – inclusion of SE Europe (from the end of 1990s on).
- On research in the Balkans - Balkanization of research or Research on Balkanization... New challenges. Impact of criminological research on policy making... a lot of lip service.
- Meško & Koporec (2012). Questionable research practices: an introductory reflection on causes, patterns and possible responses. Old practices, transition, new challenges.
- **A need for strengthening regional and international criminological research.**

# Examples of (good) practice

- Introduction of research rigour and multi-method research in practice.
- Internationalization of research (transfer of ideas) and contextualization.
- Patience and support of “established criminologists”.
- Learning from each other, open-mindedness, cooperation and synergy. CRIMPREV – a very good example!
- Publications in international publications, exchange of ideas and contributions to CJ practice/policy making:
  - International, national and local impact (international impact vs. no national/ local impact; national/ local impact vs no international impact; international impact and national impact).

# **Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor, Slovenia**

- Established in 1973, since 2003 a faculty of the University of Maribor.
- 3 undergraduate programmes (policing and security, criminal justice - since 1995, and information security – since 2011).
- M.A. programme in CJS (since 2007, 2 years), research oriented.
- Ph.D. programme (since 2007, 3 years; research methods, criminology, criminal investigation, security studies, information security), from 2015 in English. 2 doctorates in English so far (total: 11).



# Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor, Slovenia

- Erasmus exchange of students and professors on all levels (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.), lectures in English and field work (M.A. and Ph.D. students).
- A member of ADPCCJ (Ph.D. programme).
- Biennial conferences in English since 1990s (Policing in C&E Europe, CJ in C&E Europe).
- Publications – academic promotion criteria at the university (UM) and mentoring Ph.D. students (international academic impact) since 2007.
- More information available at: [www.fvv.uni-mb.si/en](http://www.fvv.uni-mb.si/en)

# **Comparative Research in C&E/SE Europe since 2008 (FCJS-UM)**

- Development of criminology in SE Europe (2006-2008).
- Policing (public and private) in SE Europe (2006-2009).
- Crime prevention in SE Europe (2009).
- Prisoner rehabilitation in SE Europe (2010).
- Fear of crime in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia and Kosovo (2004/2005, 2012).
- Threats to the environment in SE Europe (2011).
- Policing in Central and Eastern Europe (2013).
- Criminal justice and security in SE Europe (2013).
- Trust and Legitimacy in Criminal Justice (2013-2016).

# A project on legitimacy of policing and CJ in C&E Europe – an example

- Idea: to test Tyler's theory of legitimacy and other models of legitimacy of policing and CJ (mainly Jackson et al, Bottoms et al, ESS). Pilot studies in Slovenia (young adults) (Meško, Tankebe and Reisig, 2012/13).
- Focus: future professionals in police and CJ institutions (students of CJ, security studies and law).
- Partner countries: Slovenia, Croatia, B&H, Serbia, Macedonia, Romania, Poland, Russia and Hungary.
- Creation of a web survey (1ka – in native languages), automatic creation of an SPSS dataset.
- Data collection 2013-2014 (more than 2000 responses).
- Publications (papers in English, contributions to an edited book – Springer – Trust and legitimacy in CJ – European Perspectives and a special journal issue on legitimacy of policing and CJ in SE Europe, JCJS – 2014/4)
- Advantages: learning about theory of legitimacy and empirical testing of the theory; networking, exchange of ideas, learning...
- A junior researcher, (3 years), Ph.D. dissertation in English.

# **Publications of comparative research projects in English (authors from SE Europe) – not mentioned before**

- Informal networks (Problems of Post-communism, 2008).
- Policing in SE Europe (Policing – An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management, special issue, 2009).
- Crime, media and fear of crime (CRIMPREV, edited book, 2009).
- Legitimacy of prison rules (Psychology, crime and law, 2009).
- Penology, prison system and execution of penal sanctions (The Prison Journal, special issue, 2011).
- Green criminology (Crime Law and Social Change, special issue, 2013).
- Local safety/security provision – former Yugoslavia (European Journal of Criminology, 2013).
- Handbook on Policing in C&E Europe (Springer, edited book, 2013).
- Management of urban security in the former YU republics (URBIS, EJC 2013).
- Legitimacy on policing and criminal Justice in SE Europe (CEPOL bulletin, 2014).

# Concluding remarks

- Development of criminology in SE Europe
  - Influence of Russian scholars after the October revolution (after WW 1). Different developments after WW 2.
  - Different traditions of criminology in the last decades (research, teaching and policy making) – after the Fall of the Berlin Wall and appearance of new countries.
  - Criminology – a legal orientation vs wider social science orientation (multidisciplinary criminology).
  - Improvements in education and training of researchers/ criminology teachers.
  - National and international research priorities (financial aspects, a lot of research for “free but not in vain”).
  - Opportunities – internships, international grants and studying abroad, especially in the West. EU research schemes including non-EU partners.

# Challenges for the future

- Introduction of criminology and CJ research to social sciences students.
- Internationalization of graduate programmes in criminology to improve international research training and increase research standards – networking.
- Research and policy making training to increase national and local impact.
- Cooperation, learning about the region - reduction of prejudice and stereotypes about the region.
- Knowledge based policy making (transfer of good ideas and practices + contextualization) – what works?
- Investments in young and promising scholars.
- Participation at international conferences, especially ESC and creation of a Ph.D. programme network in Europe (ESC).

# Thank you for your attention

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