

**An essay about local security
management in the capitals of the former
Yugoslav republics – results from a
qualitative study**

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Comparative research at the FCJS-UM on security and crime prevention

- Council of Europe – responses to everyday violence (2002-2004).
- CRIMPREV (FP6) – Assessing deviance, crime and prevention in Europe (2006-2009).
- Private security in the republics of former Yugoslavia (2009).
- Policing in the republics of former Yugoslavia (2009).
- NATO (research and science) – Threats to the environment in SE Europe (2010).
- Fear of crime in the republics of former Yugoslavia (2012).
- Security management in the capitals of former Yugoslav republics (2013).
- Legitimacy of policing and CJ in Eastern Europe (2013 -).
- Conferences on policing and criminal justice in Central and Eastern Europe (1996 - , biennially).

History of our EU partnerships in crime prevention and research activities

- EUCPN (contact point - Slovenia).
- Beccaria (partner) – 2 books on crime prevention in Europe.
- EFUS (MA - Dijon, 2005; EEMUS, 2013; Univ. of Toulouse 2015 -)
- Jagellonian University Cracow (local police development, 2011).
- CEPOL (research on police and policing Europe).
- Handbook on Policing in Central and Eastern Europe (developments of police and policing in the last two decades, 2013).

EFUS- EEMUS project (2009-2014)

- Partners: EFUS, University of Toulouse 1 (FR), University of Liege (BE), University of Bologna (I), University of Geneve (CH) and University of applied sciences Ostfalia (D) and University of Maribor (SLO).
- Modules: The city and public spaces, Management of urban security problems, Urban security public policies, Methodologies of urban security, ***Police and Public order in cities***, Technology and Urban security, European security policies, and Management of urban security services.
- Reference: <http://masterinurbansecurity.eu/index.php?id=31814>

Police and Public order in the European cities (Module 5)

- Responsibility – FCJS-UM (distance learning)
- Contents:
 - History of municipal policing (state and local policing).
 - Community policing and provision of safety and security (policing by consent).
 - Plural policing in the city (state, local and private police/private security).
 - Public disorder and traffic control.
 - Crime prevention (situational crime prevention, social crime prevention, consciousness/awareness raising).

URBIS – Urban Security Management (2012-2014)

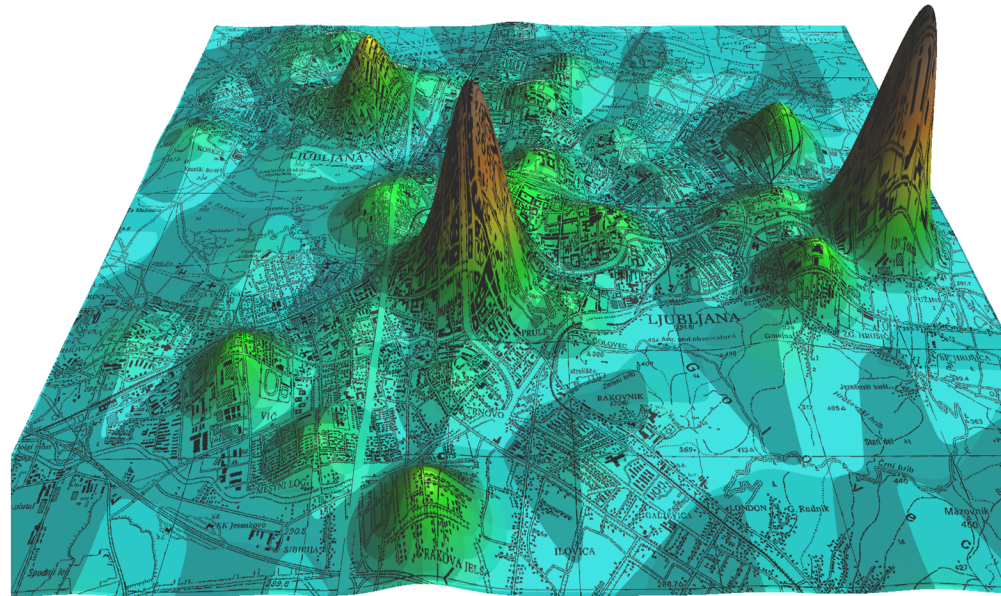
- The URBIS project examines
 - What ‘urban security management’ can mean in the European context?
 - Which authorities are empowered and legally obliged to manage urban security?
 - What skills and competencies they need to undertake this responsibility?
 - What educational and training provision currently exists in support of their work?

Selected research findings on security and crime prevention

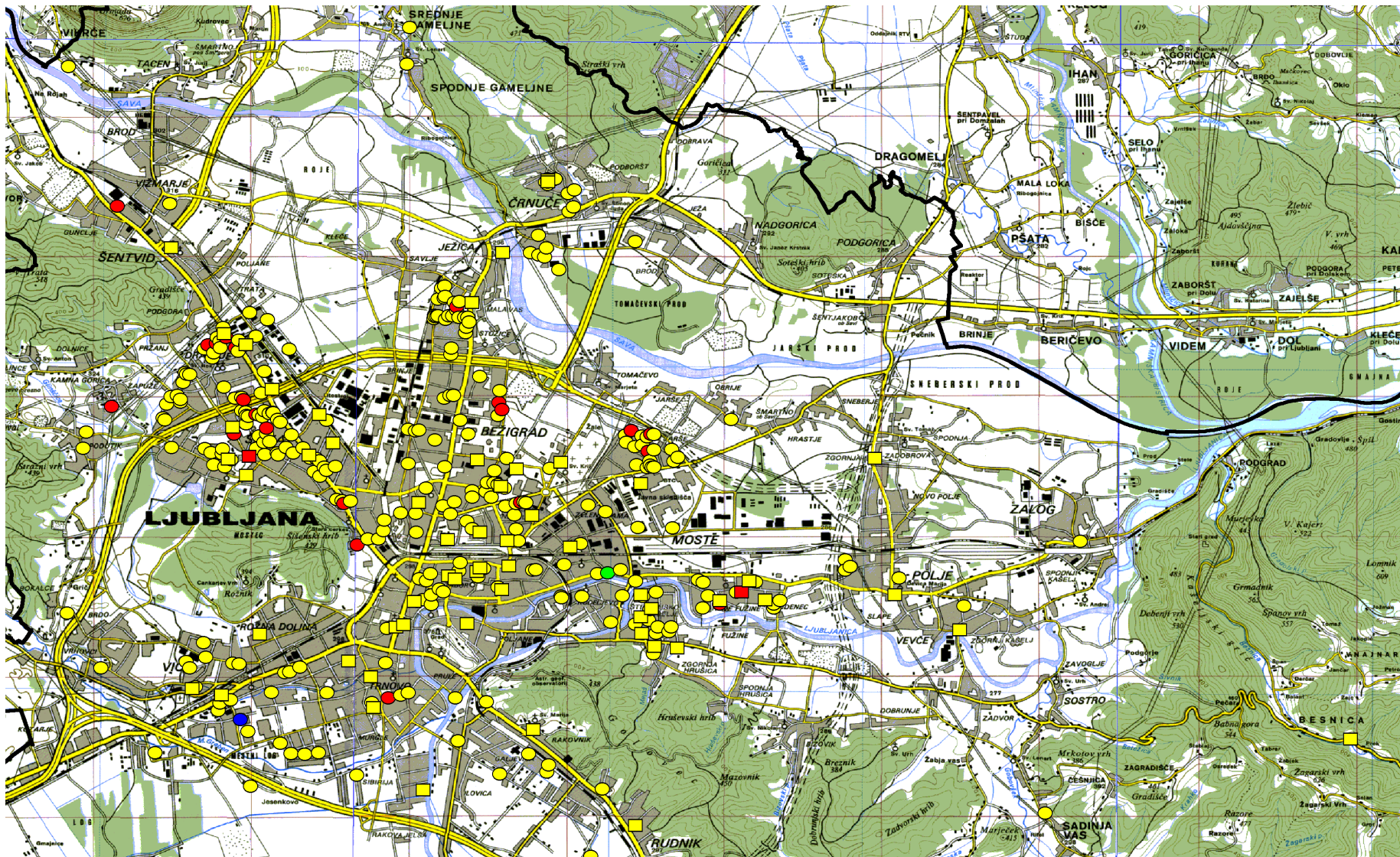
- Distribution of deviance in Ljubljana (Meško, 2003).
- Provision of local safety and security (Meško & Lobnikar, 2005).
- State police and private security officers – big and small brothers (Meško & Sotlar, 2007).
- Transfer of crime control ideas (Meško, 2009).
- Feeling of insecurity/fear of crime in Ljubljana, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Skopje and Pristine (Meško et al, 2012).
- URBIS – Eastern European developments in urban security.

Distribution of deviance in Ljubljana (2003)

- GIS – geographical analysis of reported crime in Ljubljana.
- ICVS results (victimization survey).
- Fear of crime survey.
- Community policing and problem oriented policing.



Example: Car thefts - Ljubljana



Local security provision in Slovenia (2005)

- Social prevention (welfare state – vs. neoliberalism).
- Self-protection (measures of precaution – individual responsibility).
- Formal social control (police and criminal justice institutions).
- Market of preventative services (private security for the well off and NGOs for the rest).



Example: Applicability of recommendations (EU Urban charter etc.)

- Mayors, directors of municipal administrations and members of local security councils (N=178):
 - Very interesting documents.
 - Only a political rhetoric.
 - Not applicable – legislative problems – written too general (wishful thinking)

State police and private security officers (2007)

- Different perspectives on security and safety (different priorities).
- Beliefs: State police – serving citizens. Private security – serving private security company owners and capital. Police – control private security officers. Private security – feelings of inferiority.



Example: Police and private security

- Private security companies have taken over many tasks of the national police force – especially at the airports.
- Private security officers are a cheap labour force (salaries – 50% of police officer's salary).
- Market of private security is expanding.
- National private security companies are challenged by large multinational private security companies.

Crime prevention in Western societies (2001) and Transfer of crime control ideas from the West (2009)

- Situational crime prevention and designing out crime.
- Community and problem oriented policing.
- Public-private partnerships in crime prevention, policing and CJ.
- New professions, networks, exchange of information (www).



Fear of crime in urban settings (2006, 2009) – Ljubljana + Sarajevo

- Social networks, social capital, and social cohesion.
- Social and physical disorder in the neighbourhood
- Probability of victimization.
- Direct and vicarious victimization.
- Trust in public institutions - questionable impact of police on FOC (paradoxes)



Fear of crime and local security provision in 24 municipalities (2012)

- Rhetoric of crime prevention and security is not “people friendly”. Often crime prevention offers more repression and refined forms of control.
- Residents prefer quality of life programmes to security which implies policing.
- Mayors believe that absence of police is a sign of security and safety in their municipalities while the police “advertise” community policing and security partnerships.
- Conflicts between local traffic wardens and police (local-state levels) – jurisdiction!



URBIS – Urban security management

- An overview of best practices in urban crime prevention.
- European institutions, organisations, and NGOs in the field of crime prevention.
- European research projects on local crime prevention and provision of safety/security.
- Applicability of research findings and connection between practice and research.



Urbis project - Interviews in SE Europe

- Interviews with security researchers and practitioners (2012).
- Heritage of the old system of social self-protection in Yugoslavia with some modifications.
- No specific training.
- Conflicts between a local and a national level: city wardens & national police (and private security).
- Integrity of some security partners is sometimes questionable.
- A need for a comprehensive study programme in urban (local) security.



Future challenges

- Crime prevention partnerships and public awareness programmes.
- Crime prevention networks – exchange of comprehensive! information (knowledge based crime prevention).
- Evaluation of crime prevention programmes and security services.
- Proper training of security professionals on all levels.



Crime prevention people

- People from all walks of life:
 - **Travelling preachers** (people who believe in prevention) and practitioners (a variety of practice in crime prevention – not a unique professional profile)
 - **Critics** (nothing works, on the dark side of prevention - abuse of prevention)
 - **Analysts** (research, theory, fact and figures)

**Field work – capitals: Ljubljana, Zagreb,
Sarajevo, Belgrade, Skopje**

Interviews in the capitals of SE Europe

- A literature review – papers on local safety/security/crime prevention from the region/2009 ICPC workshop in Ljubljana
- Preparation for the interviews (preliminary correspondence)
- Travelling to the capital cities
- Learning about a local context
- Interviews (Ljubljana, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Skopje with security researchers and practitioners (2012), a step towards Appreciative inquiry (AI)
- Each interview 60-90 minutes. Interviews in native languages of interviewees (except in FYROM).
- Interview recording/transcripts/analysis/publication of the report
- Analysis/synthesis

Challenges for Managing Community Safety

- More comprehensive and applied (research based) expertise on causes of security problems
- What works, what doesn't and what's promising (also how, why and in what circumstances)?
- Local coordination of security provision – tasks and setting priorities (political will, institutional capacity and competing agencies – public/private = plural policing)

Challenges for Managing Community Safety

SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

- Austerity measures (economic crisis)
- Mobilising commercial enterprises and NGO 's
- Smarter, more effective and efficient security strategies
- Everyday crimes and incivilities

Challenges for Managing Community Safety

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES (risk factors) .

- Unemployment of young cohorts - young people – a risk group
- Illicit (gray) economy – survival for the socially and economically disadvantaged (generally tolerated among people)

Responsibility for Managing Community Safety

STRATEGIC RESPONSIBILITY

- Response to terrorism, organised crime and other (serious) criminality is responsibility of **state institutions**
- Civil servants are **not able** to operate independently of political interference
- Scientific expertise should not be marginal to the security leadership/management (but it is!)

Responsibility for Managing Community Safety

OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Police needs to be a trusted and capable authority (an idea for a study on trust and legitimacy!)
- Different ministries and departments carry out community safety/security tasks (lack of coordination)
- Local security actors need to be included in local community safety tasks (partnership)
- The state has the right to intervene and should carry out community safety tasks (sometimes a conflict between the state and local levels)

Responsibility for Managing Community Safety

WHO OUGHT TO BE RESPONSIBLE

Strategic responsibility

- Mayors or other elected officials
- Appointed civil servants

Operational responsibility

- Local authorities and the central government
- Police

Concluding remarks – advantages and disadvantages of interviewing

Advantages

- Accurate screening (additional question, clarification).
- Capture verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Capture emotions and behaviors.
- Keep focus (free from technological distractions, control over the interview).
- Feedback on transcripts.

Disadvantages

- Cost (trips to destinations).
- Manual data entry.
- Limit sample size (and willingness to participate).

Follow-up

- Mixed methods (and use of additional sources).

Publications

- A special issue of the European journal of criminology:
<http://euc.sagepub.com/content/10/3/260.abstract>
- HoP in Central and Eastern Europe
<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9781461467199>

Thank you for your attention

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