

Third Annual Conference of the Max Planck Partner Group for Balkan
Criminology
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Violence in the Balkans



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„Balkans may have been in Conflict in the Ice Age”

N. Hammond, The Times, 26 December 1994



MPPG for Balkan Criminology

- ▶ Jointly established in January 2013 by the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law and the Zagreb Faculty of Law
- ▶ Balkan Criminology Network - trilateral agreements
- ▶ Annual conference
- ▶ Working group of the ESC on Balkan Criminology - Muenster, 21-24 September 2016
- ▶ Balkan Criminology Intensive course - Dubrovnik, 10-14 October 2016
- ▶ www.balkan-criminology.eu



BC RESEARCH PROJECTS

Family Control and Juvenile Delinquency in the Balkans: A Regional Comparative Analysis based on the ISRD3 Study Findings

Reana Bezić & Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac

The concept of juvenile delinquency has, through history, undergone a complex development. Even though it has long ago been recognized that juveniles should be treated differently, both as perpetrators and as victims, juvenile delinquency, as we know today, is a relatively new concept. That is why empirical field research into the phenomenology and etiology of juvenile, but also child delinquency, is still needed, especially in the Balkan region. Here the main sources of information on juvenile delinquency have until now usually been official crime statistics, which of course come with lots of shortcomings and thus bear no information on child delinquency (due to lacking criminal responsibility). But after the implementation of the ISRD Study (International Self-Report Delinquency Study)¹ we are now able to explore juvenile and child delinquency not only based on empirical findings but also in a regionally comparable manner.

This MPPG research project aims at identifying differences among 5 countries of the region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia) while of course obtaining detailed insight into the phenomenology of juvenile delinquency in the Balkans. The added value of this project is explaining the prevalence of juvenile delinquency in the Balkans, by focusing on informal control theory, which is based on Hirschi's social control theory (1969). The essence of informal social control is the extent to which juveniles are linked to family, and at the end to society, through bonds of attachment, and through direct control, such as clearly established rules, supervision, and punishment (Sampson & Laub 1994).

For better understanding and advancing the knowledge about crime causation of juvenile and child delinquency, this regional comparative approach will provide comparison between countries with more

similarities than differences. History, culture, similar patterns of perception and behaviour, instability and lack of criminological research, these are only some of the reasons for conducting this regional comparative analysis among Balkan countries. One of the reasons was also the fact that the ISRD2 Study found that "lifetime" and "last year" delinquent rates are highest in Anglo-Saxon and Western European countries, and lowest in Post-Socialist countries, which include Balkan countries, as well as in four Latin American countries (Junger-Tas et al 2012, 91). The project will examine the factors influencing these lower rates of juvenile and child delinquency.

The results of this research project are based on the international ISRD Study. It is an ongoing research study on delinquency, victimisation, and substance use among 7th, 8th and 9th graders. ISRD3 is the third edition of the international data collection; it started in 2013 and it is currently still ongoing, with about 50 partners across the globe. The project focuses on all those Balkan countries that are participating in the ISRD3 Study, and for which the data are available; namely, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia², Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia.

The figure below illustrates significant differences in the lifetime versatility of delinquent acts among the countries. Lifetime versatility shows how many different acts young people aged 12-16 had committed during their lifetime. In terms of the number of different delinquent acts committed, the highest versatility, both for two to four and for five or more offences, occurs in Serbia. If we consider the commis-

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Newsletter

- ▶ Published three times a year: spring, summer, winter
- ▶ BC Research Projects, BC Research News, News from BC Partners, Events
- ▶ Next deadline: October 25, 2016
- ▶ To subscribe: info@balkan-criminology.eu

Research Focuses of the MPPG

- ▶ RF I - Violence, Organized Crime and Illegal Markets
- ▶ RF II - Feelings and Perceptions of (In)Security and Crime
- ▶ RF III - International Sentencing

Violence in the Balkans - context

▶ WHY?

The region is considered an area with relatively higher levels of violence in comparison with the rest of the continent.

▶ WHAT?

The research encompasses:

- ▶ the analysis of criminal offences
- ▶ criminological phenomenology of
 - ▶ (1) murder, understood extensively as any intentional killing including aggravated murder, manslaughter, killing on request, infanticide, as well as other aggravated and privileged forms;
 - ▶ (2) different types of aggravated bodily injuries;
 - ▶ (3) participation in an affray.

▶ HOW?

- ▶ Quantitative and qualitative research methods
- ▶ Comparative analysis

▶ WHAT PURPOSE?

Creation and application of efficient criminal justice policies.

Structure - General Content Guidelines

Five main chapters:

- ▶ General Country Background
- ▶ National Legal Provisions on Violent Offences
 - ▶ Definition/concept of violent crime
 - ▶ Description of particularities of each legal system with respect to context and techniques of regulation
 - ▶ Lethal/extreme violence, i.e. homicide
 - ▶ Sentences
 - ▶ Victims of violent crimes
 - ▶ Recent changes in legislation
- ▶ Violent Crime in each country
 - ▶ Statistical data on violent crime
- ▶ Discussion
 - ▶ Tendencies
 - ▶ Explanations
 - ▶ Examples
- ▶ Conclusion

Books series

1. *Mapping the Criminological Landscape of the Balkans: A Survey on Criminology and Crime with an Expedition into the Criminal Landscape of the Balkans*

- ▶ Author: Getoš, Anna-Maria, co-authored by: Albrecht, Hans-Jörg, Kilchling, Michael
- ▶ Published in: Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e.V. in coop. with University of Zagreb - Faculty of Law and Duncker & Humblot, Berlin, 2014

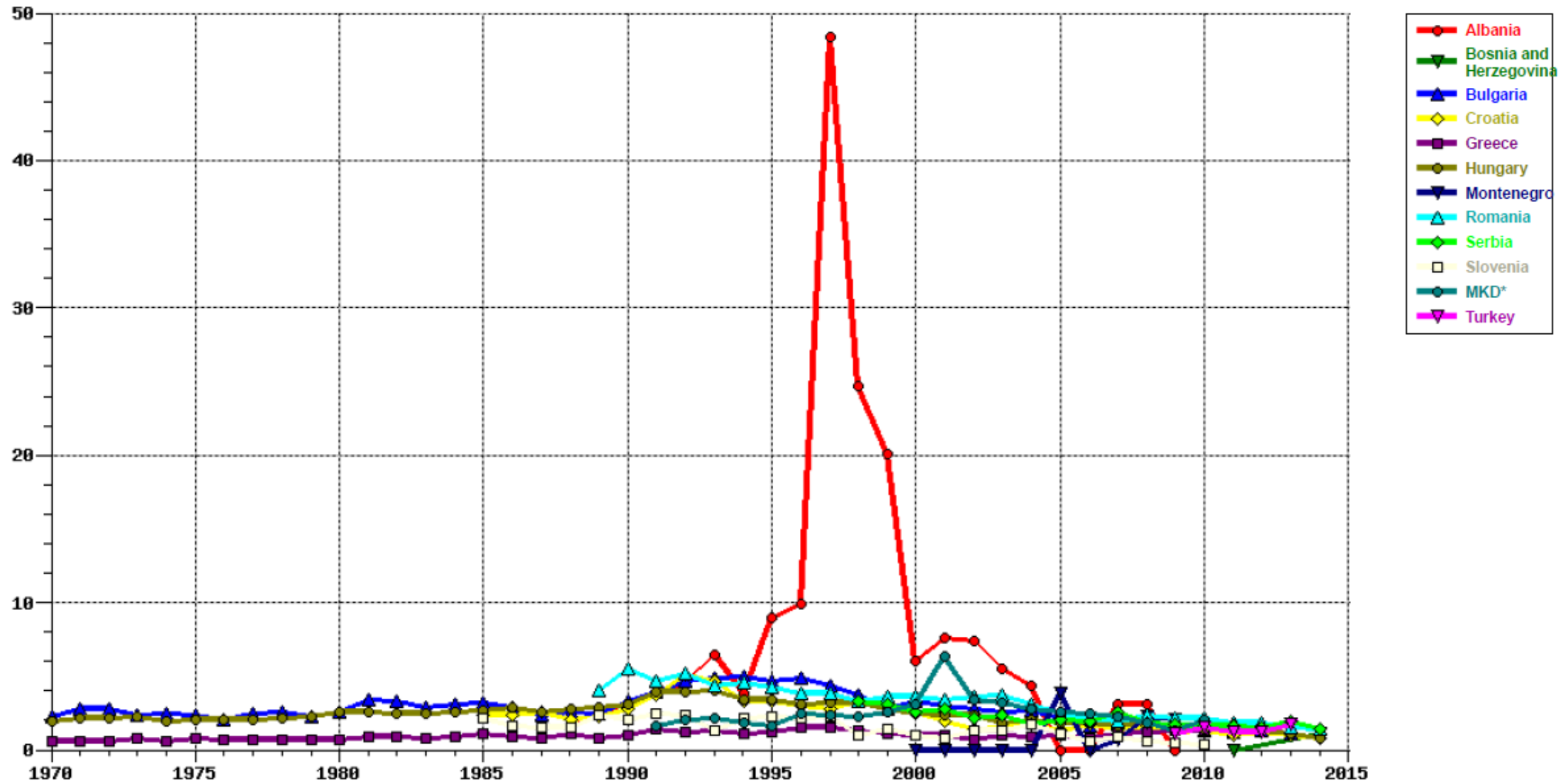
2. *Imprisonment in the Balkans* (to be published soon)

3. *Violence in the Balkans*

Deadline: November 15, 2016

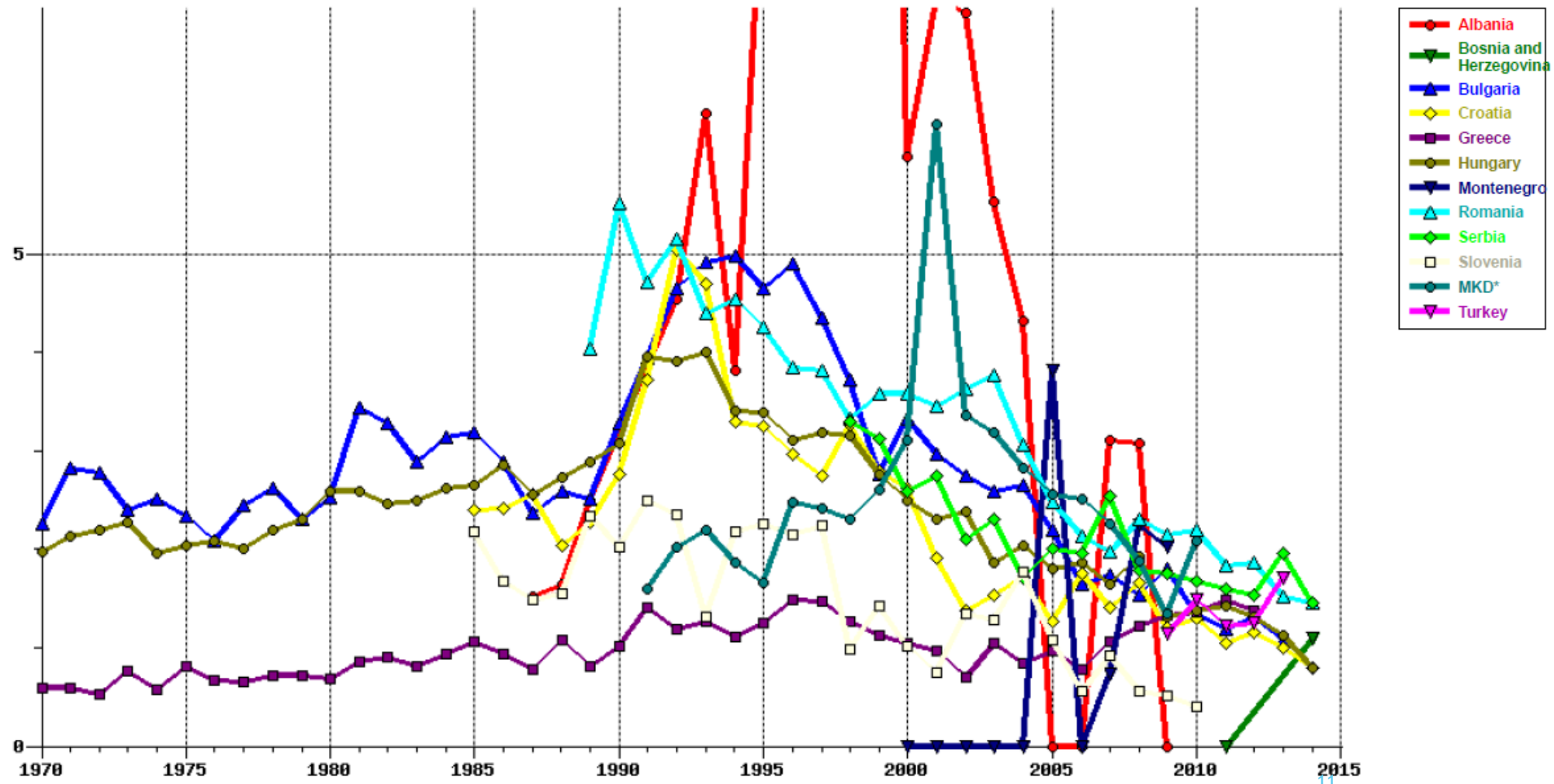
Key findings

SDR, homicide and intentional injury, all ages, per 100 000



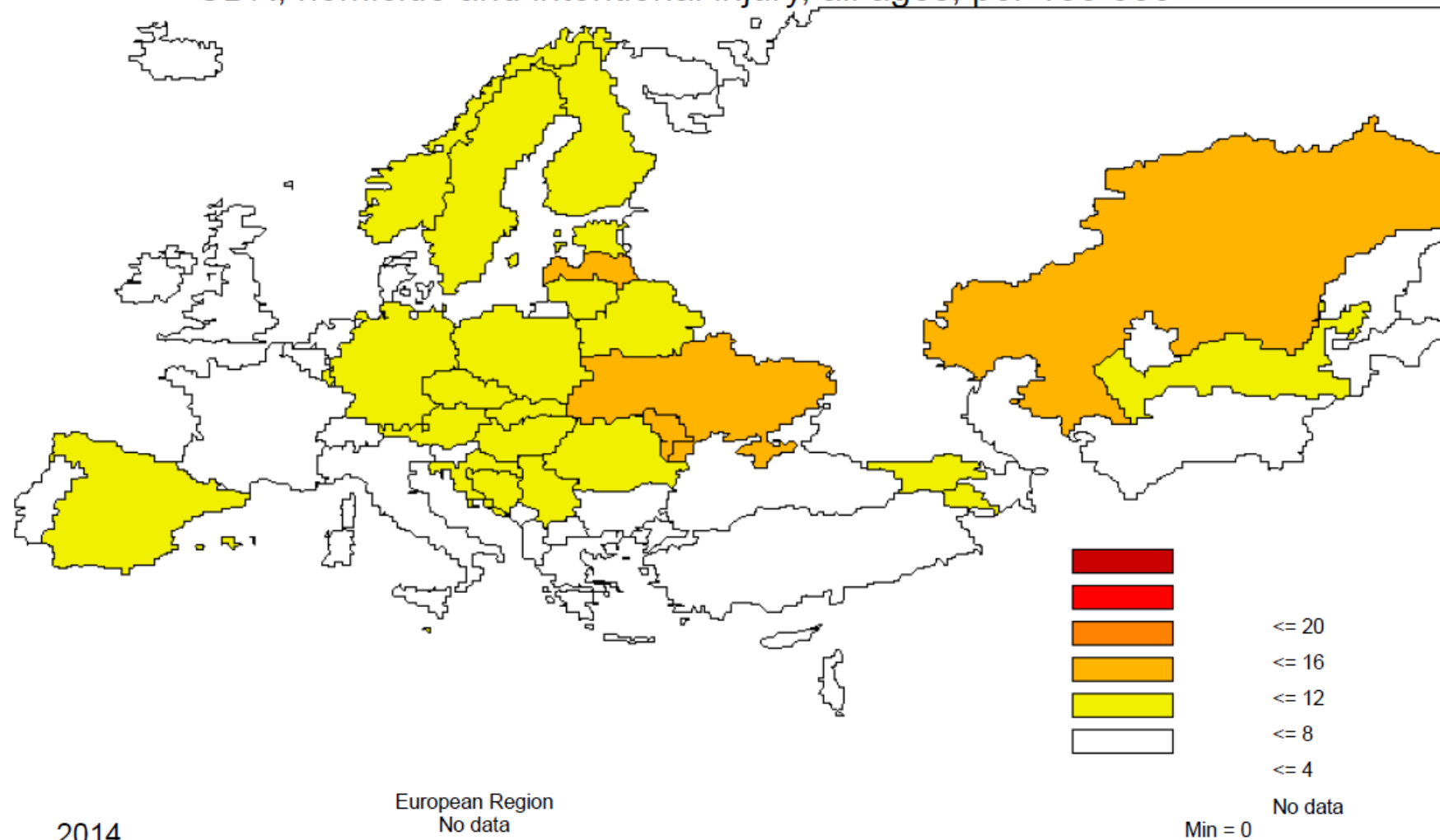
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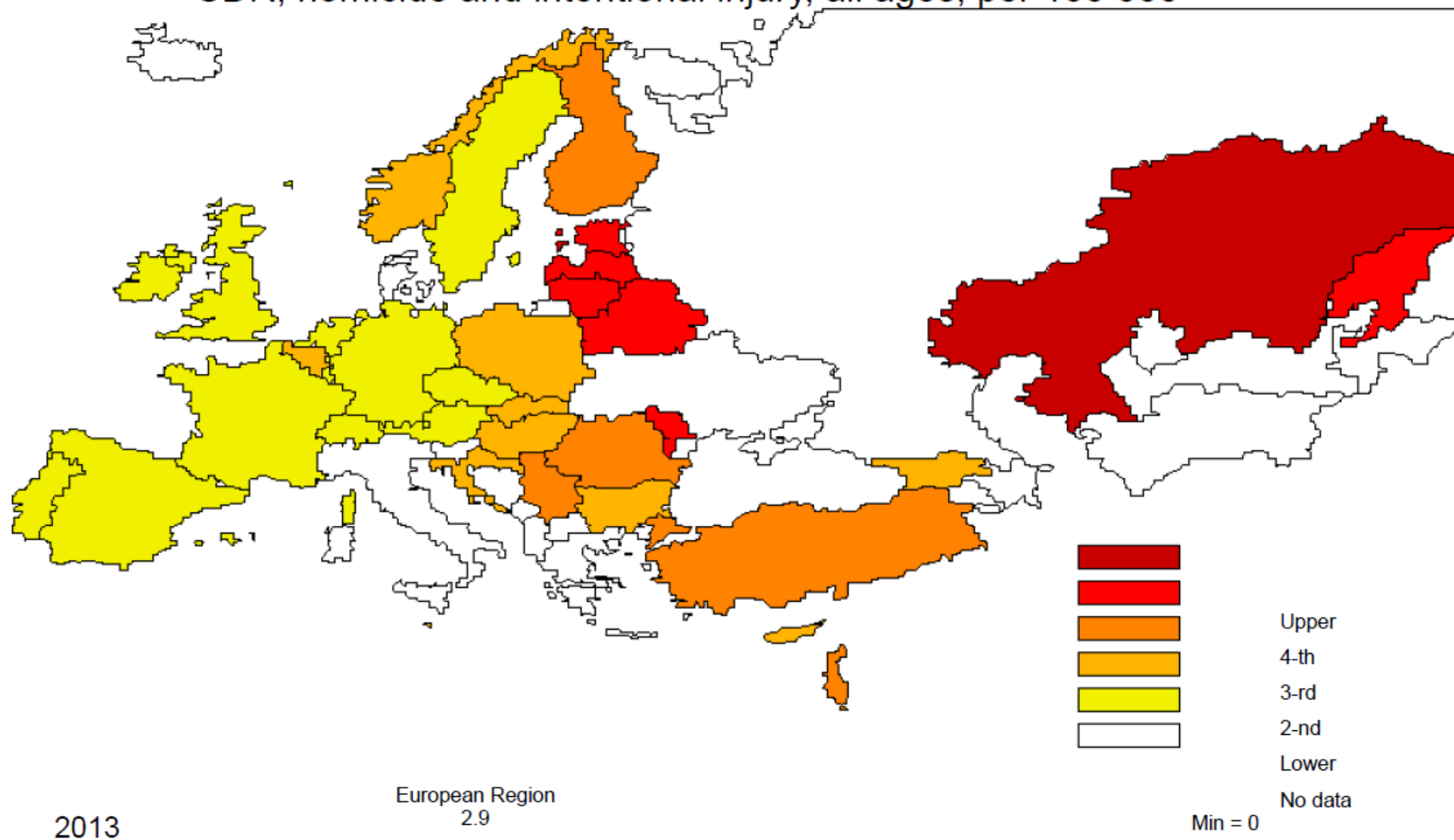
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SDR, homicide and intentional injury, all ages, per 100 000



2013

Thank you for your attention!

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