

## **Crime and crime investigation activities in 2000**

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The sharp increase in the number of criminal offences handled by the Slovene police has continued in 2000. Since 1997, when 37,000 criminal offences were cleared up by the police, their number has nearly doubled and amounted by 2000 to over 67,000 criminal offences. The statistical growth is a reflection of a deteriorated security situation, and still more, of a changed (more severe) way of dealing with and recording minor crimes, which are simultaneously the most frequent and have the highest impact on statistical indexes. The year 2000 was also the first year in which the new police crime statistics information system was introduced and, due to its complexity and extensiveness, it is not yet operating optimally, which has impaired the quality of data on criminal offences and suspects handled.

The security situation in relation to crime in 2000 was similar to that in the previous year. The work of the police was particularly marked by a growing number of mass smuggling of illegal refugees, better organisation and ruthlessness of perpetrators of serious crimes and a growth of secondary crime - criminal offences committed by addicts, who obtained in this way the necessary means for the acquisition of prohibited drugs.

In the structure of crime handled, the number of property crimes and crimes related to the abuse of prohibited drugs showed a particular sharp increase. In spite of the unfavourable security situation, the police successfully coped with the most dangerous forms of crime and succeeded in detecting and preventing several serious forms of organised criminal activity, such as: extortion and murders of businessmen, mass smuggling of illegal migrants, international trafficking of prohibited drugs and the corruption of state officials.

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