

Crime and criminal investigation activity in 2002

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The safety situation regarding crime in Slovenia in 2002 was characterised by a continued decrease in illegal migrations, on the one hand, and on the other, by more organised smuggling of people across Slovenia, an expansion of violence and an increase in victims of criminal offences. In spite of the oscillations in individual years, the threat of traditional forms of crime remains in a long run at more or less the same level, while organised forms of crime with international elements and crimes motivated by self-interest have been gradually increasing. In 2002 the police laid before prosecuting agencies charges and reports supplementing these charges in relation to 77,218 (74,795) criminal offences committed in this and in previous years, which is 3.2 percent more than the year before. This growth, in addition to a worsening of the safety situation, is a consequence of more consistent reporting of criminal offences by injured parties and a result of instructions from the state prosecutor's office to qualify the same sort of conduct as autonomous criminal offences. Police officers have dealt this year with a record number of criminal offences, by which the highest number of people ever have been victimised in a one year period. Among crimes handled by the police, there were more violent crimes than in the past, more fatal cases among victims (especially due to homicides and abuse of illicit drugs), more criminal offences against children and juveniles etc.

In spite of a harsher safety situation and restrictive financial policy, the police managed to assure an adequate professional level of prevention, detection and investigation of crimes. They had to intensify their repressive activity; they increased the extent of investigative acts performed and strengthened international operative co-operation; in the scope of pre-trial procedures, police officers have written many more official documents than ever before. The professional level of the investigation of complex and organised crime cases has also been improved.

Keywords: sexual offences, offender, victim, children's rights, crossover effect, forensic psychophysiology, polygraph method

UDC: 343.144.5: 343.54-058.55