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Urban security files

Synthetic files by country prepared by Mr Michel MARCUS (expert) according to the attached questionnaire (see appendix)

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Albania

Population: 3 400 000

General crime statistics

The crime statistics show a decline of 18.7% between 1997 and 2000 (5 199 offences were recorded in 2000).

The crime rate in the year 2000 was 1.56 per thousand.

The numbers of offences against property fell during the specified period (thefts by 21.1%), and offences against the person fell significantly (-76% for homicides, which made up 40% of the crime recorded in 1997, with 2 556 cases, and assault and battery went down by 55%). The numbers of sexual offences recorded nevertheless rose appreciably (+ 221%, with 91 cases recorded in 2000). Drug-related offences multiplied eleven fold between 1997 and 2000, with 541 cases).

In 2000, minors (young people aged 14 to 18) represented 9% of the total of 6 219 offenders identified by the police, while approximately 1% were women and 1% foreigners.

The prison population on 1 November 2001 was 3 053 (90 detainees per 100 000 population).

There are no national surveys relating to victims or feelings of insecurity.

Security responsibilities

The police force in the early nineties was some 5 000 strong, with 147 members of the force per 100 000 population. The status of the police in the administrative hierarchy and vis-à-vis the Ministry of Justice set up in 1990 has been a source of tension since 1995. Co-operation between the Ministry and the police only gradually became institutionalised subsequent to 1995 (when the decrees on the police were issued), to the change of government in 1997 (following a serious economic and institutional crisis) and, in particular, to the adoption of the new Constitution (in November 1998). The inadequate level of police training in the 26 district forces and the high level of police corruption remain major problems. Pilot programmes are being run in this field. Albania also has special police forces highly skilled in combating organised crime.

The judicial system comprises the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court, administrative courts and appeal courts with criminal, civil and military divisions. The jury system is not used. Judges are often poorly qualified, and many of them are subjected to intimidation and bribery attempts. Infringements of fundamental freedoms (freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of association, political pluralism, the right to decent detention conditions and absence of torture, the rights of minorities, the settlement of disputes through the law, etc) have been declining in number since 1997, although they do still occur.

The age of criminal responsibility is 12.

While there is no mediation system proper, what are known as Social Courts have existed since 1990 with a view to conciliation procedures relating to minor offences.

Albania has started numerous decentralisation programmes to the benefit of local and regional authorities.

One of the main organisations active in crime prevention in Albania is the Urban Institute Albania (UIA), which has assistance from America's USAID agency (United States Agency for International Development). The UIA supports local government programmes (administration, justice, police, community life, planning, etc) and decentralised institutional development programmes, as well as citizen participation in local public life. The UIA helped in 1999 to set up the National Decentralisation Committee.

Major issues

The major issues are the combating of organised crime (in practice, the transition from a centralised planned economy to a market economy gave organised and economic crime a boost, as a result of a lack of regulation), of the trafficking of human beings, of local police corruption and of human rights violations.

Andorra

Population: 66 300

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a decrease of 1.3% in crime rates between 1996 and 2001 (2 761 offences recorded in 2001).

The crime rate for 2000 was 41.8‰.

Within the overall crime figures, offences against persons are too infrequent for any trends to be established. There has been an increase in offences against property (thefts), particularly drug-related burglaries, over the period (in 2001 such offences accounted for 19.94% of overall criminality, with a crime rate of 6.8% as compared with 4.1% in 1996).

Official statistics are kept only on the victims of serious assault and sexual assault against adults (30 victims) and assaults against minors (11 cases).

Young persons (16-20 years) accounted for 25.60% of all offenders identified in 2000, as compared with 8.6% for women and 76% for foreigners.

In 2002, the total prison population was 56, corresponding to an incarceration rate of 80 per 100 000 at 1 September 2001.

Security responsibilities

The Andorra police department is the only police force competent for the whole national territory in matters of civic security, general policing, transit and border policing. There are no regional police forces, but there is one municipal police service.

The police force has a total of 210 officers, corresponding to an officer-citizen ratio of 210 per 100 000.

The judicial sector comprises one Supreme Court, one District Court and one Ecclesiastical Court. Andorran criminal law lists three different categories of criminal offence: major offences (2 to 30 years' imprisonment), minor offences (6 months' to 2 years' imprisonment) and criminal summary offences (2 months' imprisonment maximum, fines and house arrest).

The geopolitical peculiarity of Andorra is reflected in the fact that there is little endogenous crime (no large-scale disorders, problem areas or widespread drug-taking, and no extremist, terrorist or mafia-like groups), whereas exogenous crime is on the increase.

This means that combating money laundering through the Andorran financial system is a priority, reflected in the strict supervision of persons settling in Andorra. Customs fraud and action against terrorism are further priorities.

Moreover, co-operation with police forces in neighbouring countries has led to the conclusion of bilateral agreements on information exchange and active co-operation. These agreements have resulted in major joint operations against organised crime, particularly in the money laundering field.

Armenia

Population: 3 500 000

General crime statistics

The crime statistics show a decline of 9.7% between 1996 and 2000 (with 11 269 offences recorded for the year 2000).

The crime rate was 3.6 per thousand in the year 2000.

Offences against the person rose over the period 1995 to 2000 (by 31% for assault and battery, although the homicide rate declined by 20%). Offences against property also increased (thefts rose by 57%). Drug-related offences declined by 22.6% over the specified period.

Minors (aged 15 to 18) comprised 5.26% of all identified offenders in 1999, while 4.8% of offenders were women and 0.48% foreigners.

The prison population at 1 January 2001 was 7 428 (ie 212 prisoners per 100 000 population).

No national victim survey or survey relating to people's feelings of insecurity is conducted.

Security responsibilities

There is only a national police force, and no local police.

The age of criminal responsibility is 14.

The main penalties imposed are fines and fixed penalties, confiscations of property and custodial sentences (prison sentences ranging from three months to 15 years, with commuted death penalties being converted into up to 20 years' immediate imprisonment).

There is no mediation system in the criminal justice sphere.

There is no national crime prevention council or similar body.

Main issues

The main issues relate to:

- preventing juvenile delinquency,
- preventing violence on television,
- combating drug addiction.

Austria

Population: 8 131 111

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight an increase in volume of 9.1% in crime rates between 1997 and 2001 (527 000 offences recorded in 2001).

The crime rate is on the increase, and stood at 65‰ for the last year of reference.

While the "thefts and burglaries" and "homicide" categories remained more or less constant over the reference period, there was an increase of almost 18.10% in the incidence of rape.

In 2001, children and young persons (0-18 years) accounted for 12.8% of all offenders identified (2.1% for the 0-14 age group). Women and foreigners accounted for 21.6% and 23.5% respectively.

In 2001, the total prison population was 7 059, giving an incarceration rate of 86.1 per 100 000.

In a survey of feelings of insecurity conducted when the police departments were being reorganised in the Federal States, 80 to 85% of those interviewed claimed to have no worries about their personal safety, while 8 to 10% said that they felt unsafe and 5% expressed enormous fears in this respect.

Security responsibilities

The police and gendarmerie comprise a total of 16 000 and 15 000 officers respectively, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 381.25 per 100 000. The police service is responsible for security in most towns and cities, while the gendarmerie is operational throughout the national territory.

There are also almost 6 000 guards employed in the private security sector.

The judicial sector comprises 7 863 officials, including 1 704 judges, giving a judge-citizen ratio of 20.95 per 100 000. Almost 24% of these judges work in the criminal-law field. It should be noted that the State Prosecutor may instigate reconciliation proceedings between the offender and the victim.

The age of criminal liability is 14.

There are two pieces of national legislation governing the prevention and prosecution of offences against women or children. Since 01.05.1997 an offender may be required, on the basis of a police decision, to absent him/herself from home for 10 days before he/she is prosecuted (some 3 300 decisions of this type are taken each year). A programme to combat juvenile delinquency was launched in 2000 with a view to improving youth information by means of video film sessions organised in co-operation between the police and the schools. Almost 36 500 schoolchildren have so far been reached by these information campaigns.

Broadly speaking, primary responsibility for security lies at the national level. Accordingly, although there is no national legislation on partnerships at the local level, a national prevention council (*Beirat für Grundsatzfragen der Gewaltprävention - Präventionsbeirat*) was set up on 1 February 1997.

Major issues under debate

The main subjects attracting public debate are the role of private security services in urban security, illegal immigration, juvenile delinquency and family violence.

Belgium

Population: 10 263 414

General crime figures

The crime statistics show an increase of 16.70% between 1995 and 2000 (832 259 offences were recorded in 2000). It nevertheless has to be said that the year 2000 saw a decline of 2.93% as compared to the 1999 figure.

The crime rate in 2000 was 81.12 per thousand.

No information about offenders is available.

As at 1 September 2001, the prison population was 8 764 (with 85.39 prisoners per 100 000 members of the population).

A regular survey ("Moniteur de la sécurité") is carried out to ascertain feelings of insecurity. The latest available data (2000) show that, while 31% of those interviewed "rarely" felt insecure, 30% "sometimes" and 10% "often" felt unsafe, while 27% "never" felt insecure (as against 41% in 1997), and 2% gave no reply.

Security responsibilities

The police have a total of 38 755 operational staff (68.80% in the local police forces), ie the equivalent of 377.69 per 100 000.

In pursuance of the Act of 7 December 1998, Belgium has a two-tier police force, with a local and a federal level. The 196 local police forces are responsible for policing their municipality. Where their area covers a single municipality, the mayor exerts authority over the local police force, whereas in areas extending over several municipalities, the local police force is managed and organised by a police board comprising the mayors from the area concerned. In this latter case, however, each mayor remains responsible for protecting public order and public health within his or her municipality.

The state legal service had 2 544 staff (judges, registry staff and public prosecution department) in 2001.

It should be noted that, subject to the victim's agreement, a criminal mediation procedure may be followed, during which the offender is required to make good the damage caused and prove that he or she has done so.

Twenty-eight Justice Centres have been set up to bring the relevant facilities closer to citizens. These serve mainly to guide people towards the responsible institutions, to offer judicial support, to develop and promote mediation projects and alternative penalties and, lastly, to offer victims both information and assistance during the proceedings.

The age of criminal responsibility is 18, but this may be reduced to 16 in the light of the circumstances.

On 12 March 1993, a Permanent Prevention Policy Secretariat (SPP), specifically responsible for crime prevention, was set up within the Ministry of the Interior. This has as its main tasks the scientific analysis of crime, the organisation of crime prevention training and co-ordination of the support provided to local prevention projects.

At local level, not only do mayors hold the policing powers referred to (above), but municipalities may hold Security and Prevention Contracts, under a partnership arrangement which started back in 1992 and currently extends to over 70 municipalities. This has several times been altered, particularly when police reform was undertaken. Municipalities are granted contracts in the light of the urban nature of the area (population greater than 60 000) and its crime level and economic situation (lowest per head income). Once they have been selected, the towns obtain the supra-local funding they need to run this system effectively.

The Belgian Crime Prevention and Urban Security Forum, which was set up in 1995 and is a member of the European Forum for Urban Safety, brings together several municipalities. It has been made one of Belgium's representatives on the European Crime Prevention Network, and is currently chaired by the town of Saint-Gilles.

Major issues

The major security issues under discussion are those relating to road safety, urban violence, uncivil behaviour and terrorism.

Bulgaria

Population: 8 130 000

General crime statistics

The crime statistics show a fall in volume of 24.2% between 1996 and 2000 (148 915 offences were recorded in 2000).

The crime rate in the year 2000 was 18.1 per thousand.

Offences against the person declined between 1996 and 2000, particularly homicides (down by 32%) and sexual offences (-16%); offences against property also fell: thefts decreased by 33% over the given period, now representing only 56.9% of all recorded crime.

3.8% of identified offenders in 2001 were minors, while 9% were women and 1.4% foreigners. The prison population at 1 September 2001 was 9 283, representing a rate of 114 detainees per 100 000.

There is no national victim survey.

Nor are people's feelings of insecurity the subject of any national survey.

Security responsibilities

Organisation of the security forces is a matter for the Ministry of the Interior. They comprise a national security department, a national police department, a national organised crime department, a national fire service, a national border police department and a national gendarmerie department.

The police forces are divided on the basis of the administrative division of the country: there are 28 regional directorates, but no local police.

The age of criminal responsibility is 14.

The main penalties imposed are custodial sentences, (59.2% of the sentences passed in 2001) and others not involving custody, 80% of which take the form of fines or fixed penalties.

Mediation is in its earliest stages. An association known as Partnership Foundation has been set up to promote a culture of dispute resolution and mediation in Bulgarian society.

Several national crime prevention plans have been introduced. One of the main programmes combats violence against children (this was started in 1998 under the "National Crime Strategy"). This plan was amended by the Council of Ministers in April 2002. It is now a responsibility of the Minister of Education, and brings together a joint working group involving representatives of the various ministries concerned, experts from the National Child Protection Agency and NGOs; proposals are also accepted from the Bulgarian Youth Parliament.

Other programmes have also been implemented, particularly to combat violence against women (with the support of the Animus Association Foundation) and to offer assistance to victims (this programme is more specifically targeted on adolescent victims of violence). An anti-corruption programme has also been set up (this was begun in 2001 in partnership with an association which exists to support the victims of crime and the struggle against corruption, and which provides legal and technical assistance to such victims).

There is a national crime prevention council, known as the Consultative National Security Council, and this is chaired by the President of the Republic.

Crime prevention is mainly dealt with at national level, particularly by the Ministry of the Interior.

At local level, the Sofia city council has set up a municipal security company, Egida-Sofia, and made this responsible for the maintenance of public order in the capital city. It has a staff of 1 800.

Major issues

The major issues relate to:

- the fight against corruption: the corruption more specifically concerned is that which exists within the central and local authorities;
- child protection: the main focal points are the preservation of child health, children's access to education and psychological development, and the prevention of violence against children.

Cyprus

Population: 661 000

General crime statistics

The official crime statistics show that the amount of crime fell by 4.4% between 1996 and 2001 (a total of 4 517 offences was recorded in 2001).

The 2001 crime rate was 6.6 per thousand.

The majority of the crimes recorded were thefts (which rose by 20% over the period concerned), burglaries and other crimes against property. Offences against the person were not very numerous, and a drop was recorded during the specified period (a fall of 30% in the case of assault and battery, although the number of sexual offences recorded remained stable). Organised crime was limited, while drug-related offences went up by 81% over the given period.

Minors (up to the age of 16) represented 5.63% of all identified offenders, while 13.41% of offenders were women and 26.1% foreigners.

The prison population on 1 September 2001 was 369 (a detention rate of 56 per 100 000).

No national victim survey is carried out.

Nor is there a national survey covering people's feelings of insecurity.

Security responsibilities

The police force numbered 4 133 in 2001, equivalent to 604 police per 100 000 population. Some police officers who specialise in crime prevention are responsible for providing information to the public and for setting up local partnerships among the various public and private-sector parties involved (particularly NGOs).

A total of 673 staff work in the private security sector, where they are responsible mainly for such tasks as airport security and security in public organisations and at embassies.

The national legal service had 384 staff in 2001, 86 of whom were judges (a figure representing 13 per 100 000).

The age of criminal responsibility is 12, but this may be reduced to 10 in cases where an offender was aware of the significance of his or her action.

The main penalties imposed are custodial sentences (from life imprisonment to release under supervision), fines and fixed penalties.

Several national crime prevention plans have been introduced, relating in particular to the provision of assistance to crime victims (an activity which began in 1997), but also to the prevention of violence against women and children (since 1994) and to the combating of juvenile delinquency.

The crime prevention system in Cyprus operates mainly at national level, using an inter-ministerial approach. A national anti-drugs programme, for instance, involves the various responsible

ministries, as well as representatives of the Church and of the private sector. Alongside the local initiatives implemented, surveys into drug-related practices and behaviour are carried out by the National Committee for the Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Drug Addiction.

Major issues

Among the major subjects of debate are:

- road safety,
- the combating of drug addiction,
- the prevention of hooliganism,
- the combating of illegal immigration.

<i>Czech Republic</i>

Population: 10 250 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 12.2% decrease in volume from 1996 to 2001 (358 577 offences recorded in 2001).

The crime rate for 2001 was 35.15‰.

Within the overall crime figures, there has been a drop in offences against property, particularly thefts and burglaries (-16%) and certain categories of offences against persons, including assault and battery. Nevertheless, crime increased up to 1999, when crime rates peaked at 41.82 ‰ before falling again.

Young persons (15-18 years) accounted for 7.37% of the all offenders identified in 2000 as compared with 11.34% for women and 5.06% for foreigners.

The total prison population at 1 August 2001 was 16 917, giving an incarceration rate of 188 per 100 000.

A national survey of feelings of insecurity has been conducted in 94 towns and cities with over 10 000 inhabitants; these municipalities have seen a decrease in crime rates and in the feeling of insecurity, after several years' monitoring.

Security responsibilities

The police services comprise a total of 21 000 officers, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 390 per 100 000.

Police structures comprise one National Bureau, a number of regional directorates (with a specific directorate for the capital, Prague), 76 district directorates and several municipal directorates. The cities of Brno, Ostrava, Plzeň and Prague have special municipal directorates. All 76 district directorates also have criminal investigation departments.

No figures are available on the number of employees in the private security sector, but an estimated 35 000 persons are employed in NGOs dealing with private security.

In 2000 the judicial sector comprised 13 417 officials, including 2 677 judges (giving a judge-citizen ratio of 26 per 100 000).

The age of criminal liability is 15.

The main sentences passed are custodial sentences, conditional releases, community work, fines, prohibition of specific occupational activities, orders forbidding persons to reside in particular areas and confiscation of property.

The mediation sector is supervised by the Ministry of Justice. 76 mediation centres were opened in January 2001 in all 76 district courts.

Two major NGOs are involved in urban security at the local level: "Safe Olomouc" (town of Olomouc) and "Safe Town" (Prerov). Many other NGOs co-operate with the local authorities nationwide.

At the national level, the government introduced a programme of action against the sexual abuse and exploitation of children in 2000. They are also running a national programme to combat educational underachievement, directed by the Ministry of Education, and an important programme of action against juvenile delinquency. This latter programme represents the priority in the crime prevention field: launched in 1999, it associates several ministries and a large number of associations, and the city of Ostrava was chosen to house the permanent headquarters of the project. Major legislative amendments, recommendations and other measures have been conducted not only in the educational field but also in the justice, defence, interior and social affairs sectors.

The 2002 administrative reform introduced 14 new regions responsible for security and maintaining public order. Responsibility for crime prevention is set to be transferred to the regional level (including back-up for municipal programmes).

Municipalities are responsible for security at the local level: 94 towns and cities with over 10 000 inhabitants are taking part at the local level in the Crime Prevention Programme, which is partly state-funded.

In 1994 the National Council for Crime Prevention was set up, with overall responsibility for preparing governmental papers and local projects on crime prevention. The system has five pillars: 1) governmental programmes aimed at improving the quality of community life and educational policies; 2) programmes drawn up by non-governmental organisations and voluntary associations working in the field of social prevention; 3) activities conducted by commercial enterprises (insurance companies, banks and security firms) operating primarily in the prevention field; 4) programmes implemented by local authorities; and 5) police activities centring on crime prevention.

The local level is particularly important in the field of crime prevention: the towns concerned use specific sociological and demographic analyses in implementing their programmes. However, the effectiveness of the programmes is undermined by the fact that the national level does not consider crime prevention an important political issue, whereas the local level, especially the criminologists take it very seriously indeed. This is why the Ministry of the Interior in 1998 decided to prepare a full-scale information campaign on crime prevention, which was relayed by the media.

Major issues under debate

- combating juvenile delinquency. The debate centres on the issue of lowering the age of criminal liability. Other themes under discussion include youth vandalism, TV violence and drug abuse;
- combating drug-related crime. The general public are greatly alarmed by crimes committed under the influence of drugs or with a view to obtaining narcotics, because such offences heighten the feeling of insecurity in towns and cities;
- combating extremism. Manifestations of racial intolerance and violence, particularly during sports events, have made a deep impact on public opinion over the last few years;
- combating vandalism. Urban graffiti is the main factor in public perception of minor delinquency in the Romanian communities.

Denmark

Population: 5 360 000

General crime statistics

According to the crime statistics, the amount of crime declined by 4.6% between 1996 and 2000 (with 504 240 offences having been recorded in 2000).

The crime rate in 2000 was 94.6 per thousand.

Offences against property rose over the period 1996-2000 (thefts increased by 10.6%), while offences against the person declined (by 4% for homicides and 650% for assault and battery, although sexual offences increased by 4%). Drug-related offences fell by 12.5% over the same period.

In the year 2000, minors (aged 15 - 17) comprised 12.71% of all identified offenders, while 16.02% were women.

The prison population on 1 September 2001 was 3 150 (a detention rate of 59 per 100 000 population).

The ICVS survey revealed that 23% of respondents had been victims during the year 2000.

According to the annual national survey covering feelings of insecurity, 81% of the people interviewed felt safe, while 18% did not.

Security responsibilities

There were 14 000 police in 2001, representing 262 per 100 000 members of the population.

There is a single national police force in Denmark, the Faeroe Islands and Greenland. There is a police directorate in each of the 54 current districts.

There are within the national police force five regional crime prevention sections, each with its own staff, but working in close co-operation with the national crime prevention council. These are responsible for providing information to the public (individuals and the private sector) and also hold permanent exhibitions on the new technologies useful for crime prevention.

The age of criminal responsibility is 15.

Mediation does exist, but is used mainly in family matters (particularly divorce) and for settling commercial disputes.

Several national crime prevention plans have been set up. The main programme (started in 1994 by the National Crime Prevention Council and five municipalities) is intended to promote quality of life in neighbourhoods (the "Quality of life in local areas project"), a programme which is mainly intended to encourage young people to feel responsible for their environment.

A closed circuit television surveillance programme was introduced in 1999, in order to combine new technologies with the most effective possible crime prevention programmes.

The driving force at national level is the Danish Crime Prevention Council, set up in 1971. This brings together representatives of 45 public-sector and private organisations, and its main aim is to prevent crime through publicity activities and campaigns. Advisory work is based on interdisciplinary co-operation between schools, social services and the police (SSP co-operation). This co-operation is not governed by any statutory text at either national or local level, but each of the three parties involved is under a statutory obligation to carry out crime prevention work.

At local level, crime prevention also involves a partnership between schools, social services and the police (SSP co-operation), with possible participation as well by local associations, sports clubs, street activity leaders, and so on. Some 250 of the 273 existing Danish municipalities have set up SSP committees. Local crime prevention policies foster participation by ordinary people, as clearly illustrated by the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and by tenants' involvement in rehabilitating their environment.

There have been local partnerships for 25 years, ever since SSP committees were first set up. These committees' main aim now is to make the most accurate possible assessment of their action. Among the main things emerging from these evaluations is the importance of the presence of a person to co-ordinate the activities of the crime prevention associations and the municipality's decision-taking authorities.

There are several organisations carrying out prevention work on the ground. The main ones are the BUPL (association of children and young teachers), the National Association of Danish Local Authorities, the National League of Personal Development Tutors and the Danish Town Planning Institute.

Main issues

The main issues are the relationship between crime and immigration and electronic crime (the aim is both to combat the use of information technology by Danish criminal circles and to keep computerised data safe).

Estonia

Population: 1 400 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 63% increase in volume from 1996 to 2001 (57 799 offences recorded in 2000). 75% of the overall crime recorded involves Tallinn, where the rate increased by 150% between 1995 and 1999.

The crime rate for 2001 was 43‰.

Offences against property account for most of the overall criminality recorded (77.2% in 2001) and these offences have also undergone the greatest increase (+70% in the case of thefts and burglaries) over the period in question. On the other hand, offences against persons decreased by 18.8% over the period (-200% in the case of homicide). Drug-related offence figures have also shot up: + 1 474% from 1996 to 2001. The crime detection rate is 27%.

In 2001 the percentage of minors (15-18 years) was 15% of the total number of offenders identified, that of women was 9% and that of foreigners 32%.

At 1 September 2001 the total prison population was 4 723, corresponding to an incarceration rate of 340 per 100 000.

In a crime victim survey carried out in Estonia by ICVS, 52.5% of those interviewed claimed to have been crime victims in 2000.

In the survey carried out by ICVS in 2000 on feelings of insecurity, 72% of men and 48% of women interviewed felt safe in their area of residence after dark, as compared with 28% of men and 52% of women who felt threatened under the same conditions.

Security responsibilities

Police structures comprise 17 territorial police units, one Central Criminal Police HQ, one Police Forensic Service Centre and one Police School. All territorial and other units come under the authority of the Director General of Police, who is answerable to the Ministry of the Interior.

The police force has a total of 3 100 officers (in 2002), giving an officer-citizen ratio of 230 per 100 000.

The age of criminal liability is 13 for serious crimes and 15 for all other types of criminal offence.

The main sentences passed are custodial sentences (43% of all penalties imposed), fines (25.7%) and non-custodial sentences (0.04%).

There is no real mediation system, but mediation is occasionally effected by a judge in order to expedite proceedings. Victim support associations can also be involved in implementing mediation procedures.

There have been several national crime prevention strategies, involving assistance for crime victims (programme launched in 1998 by the Ministry of Social Affairs in co-operation with the NGO "Ohvriabi") and combating juvenile delinquency (programme launched in 2000 centring on action to combat unemployment, promote social integration and prevent high-risk behaviours).

A National Council for Crime Prevention was set up in 1993, comprising representatives of the central government, local authorities and NGOs (the most important NGO being "Eesti Naabrivalve" - Estonian Neighbourhood Watch - which is active at the local level, organising frequent media campaigns). The National Council's main aim is to bring crime prevention into the public domain in order to reduce crime figures, and in particular to prevent reoffending.

Regional crime prevention councils are responsible for crime prevention at the regional level, and comprise representatives of governmental institutions, local and regional authorities and NGOs. Their role is confined to co-ordinating local schemes in view of the absence of regional elected representatives. The territorial police units also play an active part in crime prevention.

Local authorities are not directly responsible for crime prevention under current legislation, but they are responsible for any fields not covered by central government. So in practice they have been playing a very active role in introducing crime prevention projects, particularly those targeting young people.

There are no legal provisions on partnerships at local level, but the territorial police units work in co-operation with security firms in protecting public order.

Several organisations are involved in national action to prevent crime, particularly the Crime Prevention Strategy, which was launched in 2000. The national and local authorities are also associated with this strategy, which is geared to preventing criminal behaviour.

Major issues under debate

The main debates are as follows:

- combating drug abuse (particularly among young people) is one of the themes which has attracted attention over recent years, notably because of the growing number of HIV carriers; drug offences are focusing increasing interest on this problem;
- combating juvenile delinquency is the subject of a national debate on which the new Ombudsman has been intensively concentrating in recent months;
- combating trafficking in women, linked to prostitution networks abroad, is a recurrent theme, although it attracted more attention in the mid-1990s;
- combating corruption has always been a subject of heated debate, although it currently seems to centre on the local authorities, whose supervision by outside authorities is one of the main issues in the current debate;
- preventing the adulteration of alcohol and drink-driving offences was a recurrent theme last year;
- the introduction of a new municipal police service is also currently being discussed.

Finland

Population; 5 019 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight an increase in volume of 2.4% in crime rates between 1996 and 2000 (344 000 offences recorded in 2000, and 763 391 if we include traffic offences).

The crime rate for 2000 (excluding traffic offences) was 66.3‰.

The increase is mainly attributable to offences against persons (violent crimes and muggings), but also to car thefts and drug-related offences, whereas sexual offences against persons and burglaries (offences against property) are declining. In 2001, despite a decrease in the total number of offences reported (-2% overall and -7.2 for criminal offences), particularly car thefts, wilful damage to vehicles and burglaries, the police recorded an upsurge in organised crime, serious crime and offences linked to drug-taking and alcoholism.

In 2001, children and young persons (0-20 years) accounted for 6.5% of all offenders identified, as compared with 15.5% for women and 5.1% for foreigners.

At 1 September 2001, the total prison population was 3 040, giving an incarceration rate of 60 per 100 000.

In the latest crime victim surveys (the biannual Public Security Barometer and the 1997 national crime victim survey), 19% of those interviewed claimed to have been crime victims in 2000. The surveys reflect a constant decrease in recent years of the level of offences reported. This decline is now being taken by the police service as a given.

In the section on "feelings of insecurity" in the crime victim surveys, 26 to 27% of those interviewed (living in the town and city centres) feel unsafe. This percentage is more or less the same as in 1997, after a period of increase. Most interviewees expressed satisfaction with police attendance times and reliability, but stressed that local police had a lower profile in the streets.

Security responsibilities

The police services comprise a total of 11 075 officers (June 2002), giving an officer-citizen ratio of 221 per 100 000. The police section of the Ministry of the Interior supervises the country's three levels of policing: the national units (National Bureau of Investigation, Security Police, National Traffic Police, Police School, Police College, Police Technical Centre and Helsinki District Police); the 5 provincial police forces which plan, implement and direct police operations in the provinces; and the 90 local police departments (30 of which operate 24 hours a day). The highly fragmented national territory and the long-standing tradition of strong local self-government have made the local police force a frontline operator in crime prevention, ensuring the implementation of provincial and national security policies.

The private security sector employs some 5 000 guards.

In 2000 the judicial sector comprised 4 005 officials, including 850 judges (giving a judge-citizen ratio of 17 per 100 000).

The age of criminal liability is 15.

The main sentences passed in 2000 were fines (37 504), suspended prison sentences (13 973), immediate imprisonment (8 147) and community work (3 413).

The 1999 national crime prevention programme "Working Together for a Safe Democracy" expressly introduced the partnership principle, laying down guidelines for the practicalities of forming partnerships.

A National Crime Prevention Board was set up in 1989, mandated to promote co-operation among national and local operators from the various fields involved in preventing and prosecuting crime. Although partnerships operate on a local and voluntary basis, legislative texts on prevention require specified organisations and institutions to take account of crime prevention in their activities (building industry, social welfare operators, cultural and sports associations, schools, etc) and regulate information exchange among operators. Co-operation may in some cases be mandatory (eg on the part of the citizen at the request of the police, or on the part of the police where social workers encounter difficulties).

The regions have few explicit responsibilities in the crime prevention field: the crime prevention activities which do take place at this level concern ad hoc strategic link-ups between different municipalities in the same region.

On the other hand, the local level has very extensive responsibilities here. Given the strength of local self-government, voluntary co-operation at this level among a variety of operators, many of whom have radically different approaches and responsibilities, is the lynchpin of partnership. The wide variety of local partnerships must at least involve the police, the municipal administration and the local education authorities, but more often than not they also bring in many other operators such as insurance companies, women's or residents' associations and such NGOs as the Finnish Association for Mental Health, the Mannerheim League for Child Welfare and the Finnish Red Cross. Municipalities have now incorporated crime prevention into their overall economic and human development policies. Local programmes are generally funded by cross-subsidisation, which forces local operators to supplement the initial state financing.

Major issues under debate

The main issues being discussed are:

- the increasing levels of violent crime and numbers of offences not reported to police;
- the use of video surveillance techniques and magnetic barriers, which raise the question of the importance of human contact in crime prevention;
- combating organised crime originating in the countries of the former USSR;
- co-operation between the private security sector and the police.

France

Population: 59 344 025

General crime figures

Official crime statistics between 1997 and 2001 show a 16.3% rise in crime and delinquency (4 061 797 offences were recorded in 2001), the rise being 7.7% between 2000 and 2001.

The 2001 crime rate was 68.8 per thousand.

The largest increase was in deliberate assaults on the person (+ 9.86%). The national increase is nevertheless partly due to the 8.04% rise in thefts, which represent two-thirds of the offences recorded. Muggings, robberies with violence against individuals and burglaries of main residences represent more than half of the rise. The new surge in robberies with violence against individuals relates more particularly to mobile telephones.

The number of offenders in 2001 (835 839) is more or less the same as the 2000 figure (+ 0.15%). 81.4% of offenders are of French nationality, 86% are men, and 21% are minors.

As at 1 May 2002, the prison population was 50 714, equivalent to 85 detainees per 100 000 members of the population.

In 1999, a victim survey was carried out at national level, but none has been carried out since that year. Nor is any nationwide survey conducted into feelings of insecurity.

Security responsibilities

There are a total of 242 366 police officers and gendarmes, equivalent to 408.4 per 100 000 members of the population. A reform of neighbourhood policing was begun in 1999.

The Ministry of Justice has 64 000 staff, 7 027 of whom are judges, representing a figure of 11.8 per 100 000. The Justice Ministry's Judicial Protection of Youth Directorate is specifically responsible for rehabilitating young offenders and at-risk minors (up to the age of 18). As at 1 January 2001, 149 338 young people were undergoing such rehabilitation.

Several steps have been taken in an effort to bring the justice system closer to ordinary people. Justice and Law Centres have been set up since 1990, giving the people of municipalities who find themselves in difficulty free access to the judicial services and legal information they may need in their everyday lives. Drop-in Justice Centres and Legal/Mediation Centres have been set up on a similar basis, generally fulfilling the same tasks. All these facilities are funded through a pooling of resources by central government and the local authorities concerned.

Under French law the age of criminal responsibility is 18 on the actual day on which any offence is committed. There is, however, no age below which a minor may not be convicted. Thus any discerning minor - in practice, one between the ages of eight and 10 - is criminally responsible for his or her actions and may be convicted by one of the specialised courts which deal with children.

Central government continues to play a vital role in respect of security and prevention. In accordance with the principle of joint responsibility for security laid down in the law in 1995, several ministries bear responsibility for combating insecurity, including the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Urban Policy, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Education.

An Internal Security Council chaired by the President of the Republic sets the general aims and priorities of security policy.

Two national bodies play a significant part in crime prevention. One is the DIV (Interministerial Delegation for Urban Affairs), set up in 1988 under the supervision of the Ministry of Urban Policy, which organises activities on the ground and follows up preventive activities carried out under urban policy.

The Higher Institute for Internal Security Studies, set up in 1991 within the Ministry of the Interior, offers study of, and training in, matters relating to internal security.

At departmental level (an intermediate level), reform began in July 2002 to set up Departmental Security Conferences and to make changes to the Departmental Crime Prevention Councils, which put forward and promote crime prevention and victim assistance schemes.

Municipal mayors hold police powers and are allowed to set up a municipal police force. Such forces are responsible for public order (when crowds gather, for instance), public peace, public safety (accident prevention, and so on) and public health. The mayor also chairs the Local Security and Delinquency Prevention Councils (formerly known as Municipal Delinquency Prevention Councils), which are responsible for drawing up, monitoring and assessing Local Security Contracts.

Local Security Contracts were introduced on 28 October 1997, formalising prevention activities conducted in partnership. The main signatories of such contracts are representatives of central government, representatives of the justice system and mayors. There were 572 such contracts nationwide as at 1 February 2002.

Many local and regional authorities came together in 1992 to form the French Forum for Urban Security, an association which promotes exchanges of experience between towns in the crime prevention field.

Major issues

The main subjects under discussion are:

- juvenile delinquency: there have been numerous discussions and debates about the increasingly young age of offenders, about the existence of gangs, organised to a greater or lesser extent, and about violence in schools, with suggestions being made that the age of criminal responsibility be lowered and that secure juvenile delinquent centres be set up;
- the role of the mayor in local security policy: another subject under discussion is a strengthening of mayoral powers, as is the question of whether police forces should be "municipalised".

Georgia

Population: 5 000 000

General crime statistics

The overall crime statistics show a 2.3% decline between 1996 and 1999 (with 14 148 offences recorded in 1999). Police figures show that the number of offences in 2000 is comparable with the 1999 figure.

The year 2000 crime rate was 2.8 per thousand.

Changes in statistical methods mean that the proportion of offences against property and offences against the person among all crime over the period 1996 to 2000 cannot be measured, although the statistics show a decline in homicides and rapes (-12%) and a downward trend in assault and battery, but a steep rise reversed this in the year 2000. Where offences against property are concerned, thefts fell by 10% between 1996 and 2000, particularly burglaries (-30%) and car thefts (-35%), although robbery with violence had risen by 10% from 1998 onwards. Drug-related offences rose by 32%.

Approximately 2% of all identified offenders were women in 2000, while foreigners accounted for under 1%, whereas minors were responsible for some 10% of all crime.

The prison population was 7 688 (equivalent to 154 detainees per 100 000) on 1 September 2001.

No national victim survey or national survey covering people's feelings of insecurity is carried out.

Security responsibilities

No information about the current reorganisation of the justice system and the police is available.

The Institute of Legal Reforms, an NGO set up in 1996, is active in the justice sector and serves as a national crime prevention council, but also acts as a crime research centre and advises the government on matters relating to justice and crime (legislation, codification, organisation).

Major issues

Among the major issues are:

- the fight against organised crime (companies, gangs, cartels, syndicates, ethnic militias, mafia) involving such offences as drugs trafficking, trafficking of human beings and corruption;
- the lack of a firm foundation for the rule of law;
- the fight against corruption at central government level;
- ethnic conflicts both within the country and in the region.

Germany

Population: 82 260 000

General crime statistics

The crime statistics show a 3.4% fall between 1997 and 2001 (6 363 865 offences were recorded in 2001).

The crime rate in 2001 was 77 per thousand.

Thefts continue to form a very large proportion of crime as a whole, although they are tending to decline (61.5% in 1993 compared to 50% in 2001). There is a considerable amount of fraud (13%) and offences against property (10%). 7% of all recorded crime comprises violence against the person, and 4% is drug-related.

It should be noted that the official crime statistics (*Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik*) are now accompanied by an annual report covering the internal security situation (*Sicherheitsbericht*).

Most offenders are men (77%), primarily German nationals (75%), and minors are responsible for 20% of recorded crime.

The age of criminal responsibility is 18, but this can be lowered to 14.

The prison population in 2001 was 80 300, representing 97.6 prisoners per 100 000 population.

Several national victim studies have been carried out since 1989. In the latest such survey, 15% of respondents said that they had been victims of offences against property, 10% of threats, 10% of sexual offences and 8% of thefts of bicycles and motorbikes.

The BKA, the Federal Criminal Police Office, has conducted several surveys showing respondents' concern about matters such as (in declining order of importance) thefts, brawls, poor street lighting, drug trafficking and vandalism. It also emerged that citizens wanted greater numbers of police foot patrols.

Security responsibilities

There were 255 002 members of the police force in 2001 (211 500 members of the federal states' forces, 29 000 in the border police force and 5 000 members of the BKA), representing 310 per 100 000 members of the population.

In the policing sphere, and particularly that of crime prevention, a co-operation programme has been set up between the BKA and the federal states' equivalent departments (*Bund-Länder Programm polizeilicher Kriminalprävention*).

There were 20 880 judges at the end of the year 2000, representing 25.4 per 100 000.

Several national crime prevention plans have been introduced, particularly by the Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Among the areas covered are violence against women (2000), sexual violence and juvenile delinquency (particularly in connection with extremism).

At federal level, the German Crime Prevention Forum (*Deutsches Forum für Kriminalprävention*), which was set up on 21 June 2001, is responsible for co-operation between the federal government, the individual states and municipalities in the crime prevention sphere. The forum is also tasked with devising common strategies.

Each year also sees the holding of the German Crime Prevention Congress (*Deutscher Präventionstag*), held primarily to foster exchanges of crime prevention experience acquired in Germany.

At “intermediate” level, it is the federal states that are responsible for policing. Several of them have set up crime prevention councils (namely the federal states of Hessen, Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein). In a parallel development, other federal states, such as Bremen, North Rhine-Westphalia and Saxony-Anhalt, have set up ministerial working groups pursuing similar objectives.

And lastly, at local level, some 2 000 municipal crime prevention councils or comparable bodies have been set up, covering almost 10% of all towns and cities. The municipal authorities and the police are almost always represented on these, as are associations in many cases. The councils are usually chaired by the mayor, and focus on analysing the local security situation and implementing and monitoring an action plan.

Major issues

The major security issues relate to:

- juvenile delinquency,
- technical facilities for crime prevention, such as CCTV surveillance,
- family violence.

Greece

Population: 10 600 000

General crime figures

The crime statistics show an increase of 6% between 1996 and 2000 (369 137 offences being recorded in 2000). However, following a peak in 1998, the last two years have seen a decline (by 4.3%).

The crime rate in 2000 was 34.8 per 100,000 members of the population.

Violence against the person rose during the period concerned (assault and battery, in particular, rose by 10.6%, although the number of sexual offences was little changed, and homicides declined by 10%). Offences against property declined over the specified period (-10.8% for thefts as a whole, and especially -26% for burglaries, although there was a rise of 25% in car thefts). Drug-related offences rose (by 82%) between 1996 and 2000.

Minors (aged under 18) represented 7.1% of all identified offenders in 2000, while 13.7% of offenders were women and 6.4% foreigners.

The prison population was 8 343, representing an imprisonment rate of 79 per 100 000 as at 1 September 2001.

No national surveys are carried out covering victims or feelings of insecurity.

Security responsibilities

The police forces are moving towards a model based more on co-operation and partnership, and involving local authorities and neighbourhoods. Thus contact between the police and the public has been greatly strengthened, with increased numbers of foot patrols and greater community policing (teams being allocated to neighbourhoods).

There were 2 795 members of the state legal service in 1998, equivalent to 26 for every 100 000 members of the population.

The age of criminal responsibility is 13.

The main penalties imposed are prison sentences, suspended prison sentences and fines.

A mediation system exists, under the Courts of Justice (Organisation) Act, but this is not very well developed. Mediation is generally used to in relation to juvenile delinquency.

Several national crime prevention plans have been introduced. One relates to combating violence against women (this was launched by KETHI, the Centre for Gender Equality), another covers the combating of the sexual exploitation of children (this was launched by IYP, the Child Health Institute), a third relates to crime victims (started by a scientific body known as the Greek Association for Victimology), and another combats juvenile delinquency (this was begun by the Working Group on Crime Policy of the Ministry for Public Order). Drug abuse prevention programmes also exist throughout the country.

The Working Group for Municipal Crime Prevention Councils, attached to the Ministry for Public Order, supersedes the National Crime Prevention Council. Its main objective is to arrange partnerships at local level between municipal authorities, associations and the private sector, so as to combat both opportunities for crime and criminal practices.

At local level, the Municipal Crime Prevention Councils (set up under the Act of 27 March 1999, supplemented by a ministerial decision of December 2001) are to cover towns with a population of more than 3 000, and the first ones have already been set up.

Crime prevention campaigns are increasingly numerous in the media (particularly covering security measures against thefts and burglaries and the prevention of juvenile delinquency), and some also involve meetings with associations of pupils' parents, schools and the representatives of various occupations.

The police forces in every town have specialised juvenile delinquency units targeting individual cases, depending on the age of the offender and the nature of the offences. Among the policies implemented in this framework are one for the return of stolen goods, one on placement in rehabilitation centres and another on the referral of cases to specialised courts. Each unit systematically supplies input to juvenile delinquency databases.

Some towns and cities themselves are working on certain projects, such as the Ithaki Centre project, under which a detoxification and drug information centre has been set up in Thessaloniki. The municipality of Glyfada also has a project intended to train guards and vigilantes to be responsible for security in urban neighbourhoods and areas with a population of around 1 000.

Major issues

The main subjects under discussion are the combating of small-scale and intermediate-level delinquency and the combating of offences connected with immigration. Another discussion is under way on the restrictions imposed on certain civil liberties as a result of the development of crime prevention techniques (cameras in public places, for example).

Hungary

Population: 10 000 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 3.3% decrease in volume from 1996 to 2001 (450 673 offences recorded in 2000).

The crime rate for 2000 was 44.8‰.

Within the overall crime figures, offences against persons increased over the period in question (+12.7%), but offences against property decreased, by - 17.2% for thefts and burglaries. Drug-related offences increased by +765%.

Young persons (14-17 years) accounted for 9% of all offenders identified in 2000, as compared with 13.3% for women and 4.7% for foreigners.

The total prison population at 9 May 2002 is 17 890, giving an incarceration rate of 179 per 100 000.

No annual crime victim surveys are conducted at the national level.

According to the national survey on feelings of insecurity, there is no correlation between any feeling of insecurity and the number of crimes recorded. No statistics are available.

Security responsibilities

The police force had a total of 37 288 officers in 2001, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 371 per 100 000.

There are also 42 000 guards employed in the private security sector.

Not all the requisite data is available on the judicial sector, but in 2001 there were 2 600 judges (giving a judge-citizen ratio of 26 per 100 000).

The age of criminal liability is 18.

The main types of sentences passed are fines (39 911 in 2001) and custodial sentences (30 148 in 2001).

There is no mediation system.

There have been several national crime prevention strategies, on combating sexual abuse of women and children (launched in 1990), assisting crime victims (launched in 2000), preventing educational underachievement (launched in 1999 targeting juvenile delinquents) and combating juvenile delinquency (launched in 1998, concentrating on integration into cultural projects).

A National Council for Crime Prevention has been set up.

At the regional level, the bodies responsible for crime prevention include regional forums and central organisations (e.g. the county police services). Regional Appeal Courts were recently set up.

The local level embraces local forums and local crime prevention councils.

Local partnerships have been established with the main NGOs, including the "White Ring", the "Neighbourhoods for Each Other" Association and "Trainband".

Major issues under debate

The main current debates are as follows:

- a national debate is under way on the efficiency of and co-operation between the different local authorities and the police. This problem is also before Parliament;
- combating (sub)urban insecurity. A major campaign was recently launched in order to combat homelessness, hooliganism and public disturbances in the neighbourhoods in question;
- combating racism is a further major subject of national debate, and in fact a national anti-racism programme was initiated in 2001.

Iceland

Population: 286 000

General crime figures

In 2000, crime statistics recorded 91 665 offences, highlighting a 5.7% increase in volume as compared with 1999.

The crime rate for 2000 was 320.5‰.

The main crimes are financial offences (42.2%), vandalism (16.8%) and (ab)use of alcohol (10.7%).

The total prison population at 1 September 2001 was 111, giving an incarceration rate of 38 per 100 000.

Security responsibilities

In 2000 the police services comprised a total of 666 officers (288 stationed in the capital and surrounding area), giving an officer-citizen ratio of 238.95 per 100 000.

Before 1972 policing was a municipal responsibility. Since 1 January 1973 the police service has operated under the direction of the Ministry of Justice. It is split up into 26 districts, each of which is placed under the authority of a Chief of Police or Sheriff. Police officers do not carry firearms, although a special "Viking Squad" has been set up for major operations.

The two-tier organisation of the courts is based on 1998 legislation, with a Supreme Court and 9 district courts, which all have jurisdiction for civil and criminal cases. The Judicial Council is responsible for monitoring training programmes for judicial staff and deciding on the number of judges to be assigned to each district. There are currently 38 judges operating in the courts (giving a judge-citizen ratio of 13.28 per 100 000). The State Counsel is mandated to ensure sentence enforcement.

The age of criminal liability is 15.

Given the low level of violent crime, there is no body specifically responsible for crime prevention at the national level.

Nevertheless, a 10-officer department concentrating on crime prevention was set up under the authority of the Reykjavik Director of Police in September 1998. This body is geared specially to improving the prevention of crime, drug abuse and juvenile delinquency. This department co-operates with other police districts and such bodies as schools, services and commercial enterprises.

Major issues under debate

The major public issues are the financial offences that make up the bulk of overall crime, combating drug addiction and promoting road safety.

<i>Ireland</i>

Population: 3 780 000

General crime figures

The crime statistics show a decline of some 27% between 1996 and 2000 (with 73 276 offences recorded in 2000).

The crime rate was 19.4 per thousand population in the year 2000.

Offences against the person fell sharply between 1996 and 2000 (with, in particular, a decline of almost 50% in violent crime, although there was a rise in homicides), and offences against property also declined markedly, particularly thefts and burglaries.

The introduction of the PULSE crime recording system brought a new and detailed division into categories of offences, enabling these to be grouped in ten homogeneous areas, especially from 2002 onwards (when the programme was fully in place): homicides, assaults, sexual offences, arson, drug offences, larceny, burglaries, robberies with violence, fraud and others. As the criminal law itself changed considerably in Ireland during the nineties, the data relating to changes in crime are frequently contradictory.

9% of all identified offenders in 1999 were minors (aged 7- 18), and 13% were women.

The prison population was 3 378 (89 detainees per 100 000 members of the population) as at 10 April 2002.

No regular national crime victim survey is carried out, but according to 1998 statistics relating to the impact of Community Alert activity in rural areas and of Neighbourhood Watch in urban areas, between 8 and 9% of the persons interviewed said that they had been victims of crime in 1997, mostly in urban areas.

There is no national survey covering feelings of insecurity, but the aforementioned survey revealed that 7% of 1997 respondents did not feel safe in their own homes at night, and 25 to 30% gave the same reply about being in the street after nightfall. The figure rose to 45% when people were asked how they felt about being in a town centre street at night.

Security responsibilities

The police force is 11 818 strong in 2002, equivalent to 313 police for every 100 000 members of the population. The Irish police force has a Community Relations Section, through which it co-operates closely with Neighbourhood Watch, Community Alert, Victim Support and the Tourist Victim Support Service. Crime prevention is organised at national level.

Some 12 000 people work in the private security sector.

The state legal service has 1 030 members, including 120 judges, in 2002 (3.2 members per 100 000 population).

The age of criminal responsibility is 7.

The main penalties imposed are prison sentences, fines and community service orders.

There is no specific mediation system.

Several national crime prevention plans have been introduced:

- a national plan to combat juvenile delinquency has been launched by the National Juvenile Office, which runs the Juvenile Diversion programme. In 2000, some 8 409 young offenders were supervised and monitored under this programme;
- the National Steering Committee on Violence against Women was set up in 1997;
- the sexual exploitation of children has been combated since 1991 by the Stay Safe Schools programme, which raises awareness among teachers, parents and children; truancy is a matter for the National Educational Welfare Board;
- Victim Support is an agency founded in 1985 which receives state funds to help crime victims within their own community;
- other national programmes have also been launched, particularly the National Drugs Strategy and a programme to combat the transport and trafficking of weapons and explosives;
- a system of partnership between the police, ordinary citizens, the media and the business world was set up in 1998 under the Crimestoppers plan, and this is intended to encourage people to pass on information anonymously to assist the police in the fight against crime.

The National Crime Prevention Office, which reports to the national police force (*An Garda Síochána*) within the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, has had its structures and resources greatly reinforced in recent years. One of its main aims is to disseminate better crime prevention and reduction practices.

The National Crime Council is an independent organisation set up by the government with a view to, inter alia, acting as a prevention policy research and advice centre.

Several organisations are active in crime prevention at grassroots level. Among these are Neighbourhood Watch, in urban areas, and Community Alert, in rural areas, the main aims of which are to afford better protection against crime and to involve the community in crime prevention.

Major issues

The major issues under discussion relate among other things to the age of criminal responsibility, currently 7, reform of the justice sector (Ireland having the lowest number of judges per head in Europe), and the combating of alcoholism.

Italy

Population: 58 000 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 9% decrease in volume from 1996 to 2000 (2 430 750 offences recorded in 2000).

The crime rate for 2001 was 38‰.

Within the overall crime figures, there has been a decline in offences against property over the period in question (-6% for thefts and burglaries), but on the other hand offences against persons have increased (+50% for sexual offences, +12.7% for assault and battery, although the number of homicides fell by 4%).

The total prison population at 1 September 2001 was 55 539, giving an incarceration rate of 95 per 100 000.

In the 1992 national crime victim survey, 24.6% of those interviewed claimed to have been crime victims during the previous year; a further crime victim survey was carried out in 2001, but the results are not yet available.

There are no national surveys of feelings of insecurity in Italy.

Security responsibilities

The police forces comprised a total of 273 422 officers in 1999, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 471 per 100 000. Italy has three national police forces: *Polizia di Stato* (provincial level), *Carabinieri* (municipal level) and *Guardia di Finanza* (national directorate with specific responsibilities in the financial and fiscal field, comprising regional and provincial branches). There are also municipal (*Polizia Municipale*) and regional police forces (*Polizia Locale*).

In 2000 the judicial sector comprised 51 945 officials, including 8 914 judges (giving a judge-citizen ratio of 15 per 100 000).

The age of criminal liability is 14.

Italy has no procedure for mediation or conflict settlement in the criminal-law field.

Security is traditionally a matter for the state. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for security throughout the national territory. It relies on two bodies with general powers, namely the *Polizia di Stato* and the *Carabinieri*, as well as more specialised units such as the *Guardia di Finanza*. This centralised conception of security was reaffirmed in Law No. 121 of April 1981 reforming the status of the *Polizia di Stato*. This text provides that the Prefect is the provincial authority responsible for public security. He/she is assisted in this task by the *questore* (head of police administration), who holds operational authority over all law enforcement agencies (police, *carabinieri* and *guardia di finanza*).

The 1981 law also establishes provincial public security boards which operate under prefectorial authority and comprise representatives of all the state departments responsible for security, except the judicial services. The 1981 law further stipulates that the municipal police force is not to be regarded as a fully autonomous law enforcement agency.

The recent affirmation of municipal self-government split this traditional arrangement wide open: Law No. 81 of 25 March 1993 introducing mayoral elections by universal direct suffrage established the direct political responsibility of elected representatives, which has induced them to demand a right of inspection of the local security situation and to take their rightful place within the prevention system.

The current trend in Italy is towards state/municipality agreements on security matters. Modena was one of the first towns to conclude such an agreement, and almost 70 such agreements have so far

been signed across the country. The texts do not provide for transfer of powers, but facilitate co-ordination of separate responsibilities between the mayor and the Prefect. This development has now been enshrined in legislation, viz the Law of 27 July admitting the mayors of the principal provincial towns or cities and the elected provincial presidents to the provincial security boards.

There have been several national crime prevention strategies, on combating sexual exploitation of children (campaign launched in 1998 against child prostitution, child pornography and sex tourism), assistance for crime victims (launched in 1999 for victims of terrorism and organised, mainly mafia-linked crime) and preventing juvenile delinquency (1991).

There is no national crime prevention board or similar body.

Several organisations are active on the ground in the crime prevention field, eg the Italian Forum for Urban Safety (subsidiary to the European Forum for Urban Safety).

Major issues under debate

The following major issues are being discussed at national level:

- combating crime linked to illegal immigration;
- preventing petty crime in urban areas;
- children and violence: the debate centres on two main themes, namely juvenile delinquency and the problem of violence suffered by children;
- decentralising the police services.

Latvia

Population: 2 350 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 31% increase in volume from 1996 to 2001 (50 199 offences recorded in 2000).

The crime rate for 2000 was 21.12‰.

Within the overall crime figures, offences against property increased over the period in question (53.6% for thefts and burglaries), and offences against persons also rose (1.1% for homicides and 92% for sexual offences, although figures for assault and battery remained virtually unchanged). Drug-related offences increased by 83%.

In 2000 the percentage of minors (14-17 years) was 17.5% of the total number of offenders identified, as compared with 10.5% for women and 1.29% for foreigners.

At 1 September 2001 the total prison population was 8 617, corresponding to an incarceration rate of 367 per 100 000.

No crime victim surveys are carried out at national level.

No national surveys are carried out of feelings of insecurity.

Security responsibilities

The police forces comprised a total of 10 500 officers in 2001, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 447 per 100 000.

Partnerships have been set up between specially trained State police officers and various NGOs, particularly in the field of preventing violence against women.

In 2001 the judicial sector comprised 361 judges, giving a judge-citizen ratio of 15.36 per 100 000.

The age of criminal liability is 14.

The main sentences passed for 2001 were suspended prison sentences (6 936), community work (1 020), fines (1 019) and immediate prison sentences (327).

There have been several national crime prevention strategies, on combating the sexual exploitation of children (launched in 2000, this programme comprises 3 different strands: harmonising legislation on children's rights, education and prevention, and rehabilitation), and on assistance for crime victims (programme launched in 1997).

Major issues under debate

The main debates in Latvia are as follows:

- combating drug abuse: the debate centres preventing unlawful drug-trafficking;
- combating illegal immigration: the debate centres on the problem of co-operation between the criminal investigation departments, customs and border guards.

Lithuania

Population: 3 700 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 8.6% increase in volume from 1996 to 2000 (82 370 offences recorded in 2000), followed by a drop in 2001 (-3.6%).

The crime rate for 2000 was 21.5‰.

Within the overall crime figures, violence against individuals accounted for 7.5% of all offences in 2000 (+21% increase in volume since 1996), homicides 0.51% (+3.2%), sexual offences 0.22% (+8.9%), thefts and burglaries 70.0% (+19.9%, including +44% for car thefts) and drug-related offences 1.1% (+79.1%).

Young persons (14-18 years) accounted for 13.3% of the 25 160 offenders identified in 2000, as compared with 13% for women and 1.9% for foreigners.

The total prison population at 1 November 2001 was 17 890, giving an incarceration rate of 300 per 100 000.

No crime victim surveys are conducted at the national level. In the surveys carried out by the Ministry of Justice in 1997 and by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in Vilnius in 2000, 70% of those interviewed claimed to have been victims of at least one offence against their property or their persons between 1996 and 2000. Over the same period, 28% of the interviewees had suffered thefts of cars or other personal property and 21% had been burgled, while sexual attacks were reported by 7% of these persons.

No national surveys are conducted of feelings of insecurity.

Security responsibilities

The police services comprised a total of 25 926 officers in 2000, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 475 per 100 000. The services break down into border police (20.6%), security police (5.7%), municipal police (15%), traffic police (7.5%), public police (17.9%), the criminal investigation department (16.1%) and various other special police units (17.2%).

The private security sector employs some 3 700 guards (official private security firms and in-house security units).

In 2000 the judicial sector comprised 2 321 officials, including 599 judges (giving a judge-citizen ratio of 19.9 per 100 000).

The age of criminal liability is 16, although young people from 14 to 16 years of age who have committed particularly serious offences are also subject to anti-crime legislation.

The main sentences passed are imprisonment, rehabilitation work, fines, supervision orders, community work and compensation for victims.

The mediation sector is dominated by the work of such NGOs as the Centre for Conflict Prevention, which endeavours to secure general acceptance of tolerance and peaceful conflict settlement methods. Other national NGOs perform mediation and information work on the issues of drug abuse and violence against women and children.

There have been several national crime prevention strategies, on combating violence against women (United Nations Development Fund programme in CIS countries up to 2003), sexual exploitation of minors (since 1999, co-ordinated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Children's Rights Ombudsman), juvenile delinquency (information campaigns and adaptation of the judicial system since 1999) and drug trafficking and addiction (2000).

A National Crime Prevention Centre was opened in 1998. This body comprises representatives of the President of the Republic, Parliament, the Government, the Supreme Court, the municipality of Vilnius and the Lithuanian Association of Local Authorities. One of its main aims is to frame a co-ordinated scientific anti-crime programme incorporated into broader economic and social programmes, while also operating as a national and international information centre. The other major body dealing with security is the Ministry of the Interior's police department.

However, the local authorities (mayors, municipal councils and their municipal police forces) constitute the front line against crime. This level has the primary responsibility for implementing the programmes, directives and legislation on crime prevention drawn up by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in co-operation with the National Crime Prevention Centre and the National Law Institute.

Partnerships are organised selectively at local level in accordance with the Law on local Government and the laws and statutes on police work. The capital, Vilnius, has launched a Safe City programme embracing a series of partnerships aimed at combating crime (hooliganism, thefts and burglaries, drunkenness, road traffic offences, etc). The programme concentrates on the city centre ("Safe Centre" operation), using video surveillance) and modernising police equipment. The "Blue Bus" programme is aimed at combating drug abuse.

Major issues under debate

The main debates in Lithuania are as follows:

- combating drug abuse: the debate centres on the resurgence of drug-trafficking and drug-taking among young people, and the associated offences;
- combating juvenile delinquency: under-age crime has had a major impact on the public opinion in recent years;
- combating AIDS and HIV infection: cases of infection have reportedly trebled in the region in three years, and this trend seems to be gaining ground in Lithuania, although the epidemic here so far mainly affects drug addicts and their partners. However, the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases and the growing number of prostitutes would suggest that large sections of the population, particularly young people, are liable to be affected in the near future in view of the modes of transmission of the disease.

Luxembourg

Population: 440 000

General crime statistics

The crime statistics show a 17.3% fall between 1996 and 2000 (with 27 155 offences being recorded in 2000).

The crime rate in the year 2000 was 52.3 per thousand.

Offences against the person are rising: homicides went up by 655%, assault and battery by 325% and drug-related offences by 42%. In contrast, sexual offences decreased by 250%. Offences against property fell during the period (with thefts down by 10%).

Minors (children up to the age of 18) represented 13.10% of identified offenders in the year 2000, while 19.95% were women and 56.9% foreigners.

The prison population on 1 September 2001 was 357, representing 81 detainees per 100 000 population.

A public opinion poll on security was conducted in 2001 by the Luxembourg Research Institute (ILReS). 76% of the respondents said that they felt safer than the year before, while 42% took the view that crime in Luxembourg was at a similar level to that in other foreign countries. Among the offences to which respondents felt most vulnerable were road traffic offences (49% of respondents), burglary (26%), damage to the public highway (26%) and other categories of offences connected with urban insecurity, such as vehicle thefts, prostitution, vandalism and juvenile delinquency (10%).

Security responsibilities

There are 1 370 members of the police force, representing 42.3 per 100 000.

Reorganisation of the security forces was introduced under the law of 31 May 1999. The Grand Ducal Gendarmerie and the police were merged into a single Grand Ducal police force. This has three hierarchical levels: a general directorate, the central departments and the six regional directorates.

2 500 people work in the private security sector.

There are 186 judges, equivalent to 42.3 per 100 000 members of the population.

The age of criminal responsibility is 18 (that being the age from which the ordinary courts have jurisdiction, with the youth courts being responsible for delinquents under that age).

The office of criminal affairs mediator was introduced by the law of 6 March 1999. In pursuance of the law, the mediator gives the parties a hearing and attempts to ensure that damage is made good, that the disruption resulting from the offence is brought to an end and that the offender is rehabilitated.

Several national crime prevention plans have been introduced. Where crime prevention in relation to women is concerned, the Minister for the Advancement of Women, in co-operation with around 30 associations, ran a national campaign on the subject of violence against women and girls under the slogan: "Enough of compromises where violence against women and girls is concerned". This campaign took up where a 1993 campaign had left off, a campaign intended to "break the silence" and to look after women and children against whom family violence had been committed. In the field of assistance to crime victims, the SAV, a victim assistance service, was set up under the law of 7 July 1994 on sentencing matters, within the Central Welfare Department of the Luxembourg Public Prosecutor's Office. This provides assistance to persons whose physical or mental health has been adversely affected by a violent offence. In the effort to prevent children dropping out of school, a pilot project entitled "A teaching model for a second-chance school" (MP-E2C) not only combats the incidence of dropping out, but has also started a campaign to educate young people aged 15 to 25. Efforts to combat the sexual exploitation of children include "Bobby", a campaign which, with the help of television, is intended to improve the image of the police among young people.

Crime prevention is mainly a national matter. The Ministers for the Interior, Justice and Education work together within a joint working group to prevent delinquency. This working group looks beyond statutory penalties, supporting joint initiatives, particularly to combat drug addiction. This involves police in civilian clothing attempting to discourage young people from taking drugs; they also organise anti-drugs events.

At local level, the maintenance of law and order is a matter for the civilian authorities. Thus the moment public order is at risk, the police may be asked to intervene. During such action, the police official responsible informs the civilian authorities of the resources needed for the action. The civilian authorities may, except where there is an absolute need, prohibit the use of force or of firearms.

Major issues

The major urban security debates have recently centred on an argument within the Luxembourg Parliament in which it was stated that Luxembourg had the greatest number of violent offences per head of population of all European countries.

Netherlands

Population: 15 921 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 9% increase in volume from 1996 to 2000 (1 173 688 offences recorded in 2000).

The crime rate for 2000 was 74.9‰.

Within the overall crime figures, offences against persons decreased (- 41.9% for homicides, - 5.4% for sexual offences and - 21.1% for assault and battery); on the other hand, offences against property increased (1% for thefts and burglaries). Drug-related offences increased by 16.2%.

Minors (12 to 17 years) accounted for 19% of all offenders identified in 2000, as compared with 13% for women.

The total prison population at 1 September 2001 was 14 968, giving an incarceration rate of 94 per 100 000.

According to the ICVS survey, 25.2% of interviewees claimed to have been crime victims in 2000.

It emerged from the ICVS survey on feelings of insecurity that 81% of those interviewed felt safe in their neighbourhoods after nightfall, while 18% felt unsafe under the same conditions.

Security responsibilities

The police service consists of a national force (KLPD) and 25 regional forces. These forces comprised a total of 40 000 officers in 2000, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 251 per 100 000.

The age of criminal liability is 12.

The main sentences passed are suspended prison sentences, immediate prison sentences, fines and community work.

In 2000 the Ministry of Justice launched several projects aimed at establishing mediation procedures within the judicial system. Mediators must be registered with the Netherlands Mediation Institute. The courts must not intervene in procedures initiated by mediators.

At the national level, the Netherlands authorities' action against crime led them to establish a National Prevention Bureau within the police service in 1979, but the main achievement has been the Roethof Commission, which was set up in 1983. This Commission has concentrated on implementing a prevention policy at the national level, involving representatives of civil society in prevention policies and fostering the requisite co-operation and partnership at the local level.

Almost 200 crime prevention projects have been funded at the local level under the Society and Crime Programme (SEC), which was launched in 1985.

In 1989 the Ministry of Justice set up a Crime Prevention Directorate, which pursues four broad objectives: promoting crime prevention in co-operation with the municipalities, funding police initiatives to prevent crime, co-ordinating victim aid policies and regulating the private security sector. However, the Ministry of Justice is not exclusively responsible for crime prevention, and other ministries are involved in some of the programmes, notably the Ministry of Health and Culture (combating vandalism, drug abuse and alcoholism among young people), the Ministry of Economic Affairs (action to prevent shoplifting) and the Ministry of the Interior (under the "New Social Policies" Programme).

The mayor, the chief of police and the public prosecutor are the main partners in crime prevention at the local level. Many municipalities have introduced municipal crime prevention councils, comprising not only the aforementioned officials but also representatives of the youth, education, transport and housing sectors.

1989 saw the creation of the Netherlands Crime Prevention Network, an association embracing crime prevention co-ordinators from almost 150 different towns and cities.

Major issues under debate

The main debates are as follows:

- combating drug abuse, centring on the various means of co-ordinating prosecution and assistance within the existing legislative framework;
- combating racism: the increasing numbers of attacks on foreigners makes this one of the priority public order and security issues;
- combating juvenile delinquency;
- combating economic and financial crime.

Norway

Population: 4 500 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 10.3% increase in volume from 1996 to 2000 (454 249 offences recorded in 2000).

The crime rate for 2000 was 101‰.

Within the overall crime figures, offences against property increased over the period in question (7% for thefts and burglaries), as did offences against persons (3.4% for homicide, 34% for assault and battery and 33% for sexual offences). Drug-related offences also went up by 60%.

In 2000, minors (5-17 years) accounted for 15% of all offenders identified, as compared with 16% for women and 8% for foreigners.

The total prison population at 1 September 2001 was 2 666, giving an incarceration rate of 59 per 100 000.

According to the latest national crime victim survey carried out in 2000, 16.4% of interviewees claimed to have suffered at least one offence against their property or their persons in 1999. For the same year, 4.6% had their cars stolen, while 2.2% had been victims of sexual assault (ICVS).

Security responsibilities

The police services comprise a total of 7 725 officers, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 172 per 100 000.

The age of criminal liability is 15.

The main sentences passed are fines (90% of all penalties imposed in 2001), suspended prison sentences (increasing by 39% from 2000 to 2001), and immediate imprisonment. In 2001, 16% more

prison sentences were handed down than in 2000, which might be a result of an amendment made in 2000 to the Code of Criminal Procedure aimed at expediting proceedings.

Under the Law of 15 March 1991 on mediation, anyone can submit any type of case to the ombudsman, as an alternative to the traditional type of criminal proceedings. At first this system was used only for relatively minor offences, but various plans are in hand for expanding the procedure. Forty mediation centres are in operation. The mediation service is provided free of charge, and all towns and cities are required to provide and fund such a service. In 2001 6 500 cases were submitted for mediation, most of them involving young people aged 15 to 17 having committed acts of vandalism or thefts. Most of the agreements reached between the parties concern financial compensation and compensatory work. Any party failing to comply with the agreement registered by the ombudsman is subject to a judicial sanction.

In 1980 the Ministry of Justice set up a National Crime Prevention Council made up of representatives of the police, the prisons services, the judiciary, the education and welfare services, the local communities, governmental departments and the press. The Council helps the Government devise crime prevention strategies, backs research in the field of analysing and preventing criminal behaviour and provides public information.

The Council also encourages municipalities to form partnerships with the private sector to involve it in their projects. This means providing Norwegian citizens with incentives to work together to make their neighbourhoods safer and more pleasant (pilot experiment by the city of Kristiansand). The biggest project supported by the Council involves 7 municipalities organising regular contact with all the bodies dealing with juvenile delinquency, namely the police, schools, child welfare agencies, social welfare departments and various voluntary associations.

Major issues under debate

The main issues discussed are combating juvenile delinquency (upsurge in crime committed by minors, and also by young people aged from 18 to 20) and combating and preventing prostitution.

Poland

Population: 38 630 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 54.8% increase in volume from 1996 to 2001 (1 390 089 offences recorded in 2001).

The crime rate for 2001 was 35.97‰.

Within the overall crime figures for 2001, offences against persons accounted for 39.3% of all offences and offences against property for 60.7%.

There has been a particularly marked increase in offences against persons (+17% for homicides and +24% for assault and battery). Thefts and burglaries have also shot up over the period (+39.6%), as have drug-related offences (+290%).

In 2001, young persons (13-16 years) accounted for 10.1% of the 533 943 offenders identified, as compared with 8.6% for women and 1.3% for foreigners.

The total prison population at 1 January 2002 was 81 165, giving an incarceration rate of 21 per 100 000.

In the absence of any regular crime victim surveys, the main reference is the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute survey: in 2000, the crime victim ratio stood at 23%.

41% of Polish citizens are reportedly satisfied with police action in their area of residence, while only 35% feel safe when alone in the street after dark (ICVS).

Security responsibilities

The police services comprised a total of 100 754 officers in 2001, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 260 per 100 000.

The police services are organised hierarchically: Central Police HQs comprise a Central Investigation Bureau, a Criminal Investigation Bureau, a Prevention Bureau and a Forensic Science Institute. There are 16 provincial police HQs and 308 police districts. There are also a number of municipal police units.

The judicial sector in 2001 comprised 8 768 judges (giving a judge-citizen ratio of 20 per 100 000).

The age of criminal liability is 17. However, from the age of 15 onwards minors who have committed serious offences within the meaning of the Penal Code must answer for their acts under the ordinary rules on criminal liability applicable to adults, provided that any prior educational assistance measure(s) taken has/have proved ineffective.

Fines are the most commonly applied penalties (15.1% of sentences passed in 2001), followed by custodial sentences of between 1 and 12 months (6.6% of sentences passed in 2001) and prison sentence of between one month and 15 years (immediately enforceable prisons sentences accounted for 13.8% of sentences passed in 2001, as compared with 64.4% for suspended sentences).

Mediation procedures were introduced on a trial basis over the period 1995-1998, and have now become part of the legal system. Mediation is a voluntary option, requiring a judicial decision and the agreement of both parties. The "Polish Mediation Centre", an NGO, has 11 centres operating nationwide to promote mediation within the judicial system.

There have been several national crime prevention strategies, on combating violence against women (launched in 2000 and centred on domestic violence), providing assistance for crime victims (launched in 1999), combating educational underachievement and preventing juvenile delinquency.

There is no national council for crime prevention, but many associations deal with crime prevention at the local level. Most local governments have established City Guard Services which co-operate with the police forces.

There are local partnerships with NGOs, particularly the Centre for Women's Rights, "La Strada" (organisation combating trafficking in women), the Nationwide Forum for Victims of Crime and PATRONAT (prisoners' aid association).

Major issues under debate

The main debates are on the following subjects:

- combating organised crime: there are an estimated 400 criminal organisations operating in Poland;
- combating drug abuse: the national debate centres on the issue of the effectiveness of current measures;
- preventing corruption in political and economic circles: the debate centres on the problem of devising legal and social mechanisms for controlling such corruption;
- combating juvenile delinquency is one of the recurrent themes of national debate; it is attracting increasing attention because young offenders are becoming more and more violent.

Portugal

Population: 10 250 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 13% increase in volume from 1996 to 2001 (363 300 offences recorded in 2001).

The crime rate for 2001 was 35.4‰.

Within the overall crime figures, offences against property predominate (59%): motor vehicle thefts, burglaries, attacks on commercial premises and robberies; and there was also an increase in violent and serious crimes over the period (+8.7%). There was also a steep rise (+30%) in domestic violence between 2000 and 2001.

In 2001, young persons (16-24 years) accounted for 29% of all offenders identified, the figure for the under-16 age group being 2.5%. Women accounted for 19.1% of the total. No data are available on the proportion of foreigners involved.

The total prison population in 2001 was 13 112, giving an incarceration rate of 128 per 100 000.

According to the crime victim survey carried out by the ICVS, 15.5% of interviewees claimed to have been crime victims in 2000.

It emerged from the 2001 crime victim survey of the City of Lisbon, where 70% of overall nationwide crime is concentrated, that elderly people are highly vulnerable to thefts and assault and battery. No information is available on feelings of insecurity.

Security responsibilities

The police services comprise a total of 45 923 officers, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 448 per 100 000. Portugal has three different police forces: the "*Polícia Judiciária*" (criminal investigation department), the "*Polícia de Segurança Pública*" (uniformed police) and the "*Guarda Nacional Republicana*" (gendarmerie). There is also a municipal police service, and the Autonomous Regions have regional police directorates.

The judicial sector in 2001 comprised 12 806 officials, including 1 690 judges (giving a judge-citizen ratio of 16.5 per 100 000).

The age of criminal liability is 16.

There are three special crime prevention programmes run by the security forces, which form partnership to help the least privileged social groups:

- preventing juvenile delinquency ("*Escolhas*" programme): this scheme provides young people over the age of twelve from 55 different problem areas of Lisbon, Oporto and Setúbal with special assistance in terms of their social integration;
- support for crime victims (*INOVAR* Programme), geared essentially to reinforcing neighbourhood policing;
- protection for the elderly ("*Apoio 65 - Idosos e Segurança*" Programme) by means of public awareness campaigns and increased police patrolling;

There is no national crime prevention council or similar body, prevention being mainly a matter for the local level, where municipal crime prevention strategies are being adopted by a growing number of municipalities. The local level is much more closely involved in crime prevention than the regional level.

At the local level, Lisbon and Oporto are the main cities equipped with extensive crime prevention facilities, given that 85% of all offences are committed here. The Lisbon municipality has introduced

wide-ranging mechanisms to combat crime. Its action centres on programmes involving young offenders (4 000 young people took part in 2000) aimed at preventing reoffending, and also on neighbourhood programmes eliciting the vigilance and involvement of citizens in preventing criminal behaviour.

Those municipalities which have adopted crime prevention strategies implement a series of common principles, the aim being to prevent crime by promoting social development (combating unemployment, establishing social integration strategies and preventing educational underachievement) and making citizens aware of their responsibilities (setting up citizen involvement and consultation forums).

Major issues under debate

The main issues attracting public debate are:

- combating juvenile delinquency in problem suburbs;
- combating domestic violence: the debate centres on the problem of violence against women and the elderly;
- combating racism.

Romania

Population: 22 400 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 9.9% increase in volume from 1996 to 2000 (353 745 offences recorded in 2000).

The crime rate for 2000 was 15.75‰.

In 2001, young persons (14-18 years) accounted for 6.8% of all offenders identified, as compared with 13.7% for women and 0.7% for foreigners.

The total prison population at June 2002 was 51 890, giving an incarceration rate of 230 per 100 000.

32 436 crime victims were recorded for the year 2001, including 1 937 minors, 13 140 women and 5 374 elderly persons (ICVS).

Security responsibilities

The police force has a total of 47 644 officers, corresponding to an officer-citizen ratio of 210 per 100 000.

The police services comprise a general HQ, 41 departmental HQs, 8 traffic police units, the Directorate-General of Police of the municipality of Bucharest, the HQ of the department responsible for combating organised crime, and various police training establishments. In discharging their duties vis-à-vis preserving public order, police units co-operate with the Gendarmerie (which is mainly responsible for the smooth running of demonstrations) and the civil guard (which also works at the local level to preserve law and order).

The age of criminal liability is 16, but persons between the age of 14 and 16 must answer for their deeds before the criminal courts if they have understood the nature of such offences.

The National Crime Prevention Council, an interdepartmental body set up in 2001, is mandated to formulate, incorporate and monitor government policy in the field of crime prevention. Secretarial services for the Council are provided by the Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice.

The Crime Research and Prevention Institute mainly concentrates on urban security, and forms partnerships with voluntary NGOs active in the field of maintaining urban security.

Several national programmes (National Programmes for Prevention of Offences against the Heritage and for Prevention of Home Violence, and implementation of the strategy for improving the situation of Gypsies) set up partnerships with local authorities and NGOs with a view to reducing crime and improving security in urban areas.

Slovakia

Population: 5 400 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 10.6% decrease in volume from 1996 to 2000, followed by a 5.8% increase in 2001 (93 053 offences).

The crime rate for 2000 was 17.2‰.

Within the overall crime figures, violence against individuals accounted for 15.5% of all offences in 2001 (+26.9% increase in volume since 1996), homicides 0.14% (-2.3%), sexual offences 0.81% (-9.2%), offences against property 58.1% (-20.3%, including -25.2% for armed robbery, -18.5% for burglaries and -20% for vehicle thefts) and drug-related offences 0.65% (-18.1%, despite a 67% increase in 2001).

Young persons (15-18 years) accounted for 9.37% of all offenders identified in 2001 (18% if we add the 6-15 age group), as compared with 17.4% in 1996 for the 15-18 age group. The percentage was 9% for women and 2.43% for foreigners.

The total prison population at 1 July 2001 was 7 509, giving an incarceration rate of 300 per 100 000.

No crime victim surveys are conducted at the national level.

In the annual national survey of feelings of insecurity, 51.4% of persons interviewed feel generally safe and 61% feel safe in their homes, giving an increase in volume of 19% and 14% since 2000.

Security responsibilities

The police services comprised a total of 21 000 officers in 2000, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 390 per 100 000. Municipal police forces, which are supervised by their respective mayors, are responsible for public order, protection of property and persons in co-operation with the national police, as well as for compliance with municipal orders and regulations. The municipal police implement deterrent action at the local level and liaise with the competent intervention units when necessary.

The private security sector employs 19 535 guards.

In 2000 the judicial sector comprised 4 625 officials, including 1120 judges (giving a judge-citizen ratio of 20 per 100 000).

The age of criminal liability is 15.

The main sentences passed are custodial sentences, prohibition of specific occupational activities, confiscation of property, fines, expulsion orders and orders forbidding persons to enter particular areas.

The Government recently expressed interest in developing a special mediation service by setting up the Institute of the Slovak Legal Order, Probation and Mediation Service (April 2002), in co-operation with the United Kingdom. This body's main task will be to radically reform the criminal-law sector and spotlight the whole range of possible penalties available in criminal cases. Major changes are currently being made to the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, one of the aims being to improve citizen access to justice.

There have been several national crime prevention strategies, on combating violence against women and domestic violence (under the programme to promote equal opportunities between women and men as adopted in March 2001), preventing sexual exploitation of children (under the National Action Plan for Children launched in August 2002) and co-ordinating the operators and sectors involved in crime prevention by means of the "Crime Prevention Strategy of the Slovak Republic" programme (1997).

A National Crime Prevention Council was set up in 1993 to co-ordinate crime prevention policies at the national level.

The regions are responsible for crime prevention and prosecution. The Police Corps' regional directorates decide on the location of police units in the region and the various districts and manage the prevention programmes. Regional boards for the prevention of anti-social activities, which comprise representatives of the state, the local prevention boards and the local authorities, supervise the activities of the regional bodies responsible for co-ordinating overall prevention policies.

Local authorities run the municipal and local police services in co-operation with the Police Corps, also involving the mayor and the local prevention policy co-ordinators. The mayors and deputy mayors direct the local security committees, whose membership also comprises other municipal councillors.

Local partnerships are mainly based on the local boards for the prevention of anti-social activities, which comprise representatives of the local police, local government and local elected representatives, but also the national police service, NGOs, enterprises and other institutions or groups of citizens operating locally. New crime information and consultation centres and victim aid centres are beginning to open.

Major issues under debate

The main debates are on the following subjects:

- combating ethnic and racial violence: the resurgence of racist attacks and crime reflects the growing militancy of extreme right-wing groups;
- combating domestic violence and child abuse. The debate mainly involves NGO experts and organisations defending women's rights;
- combating police crime: offences committed by police officers (involvement or complicity in crimes, car accidents linked to alcoholism, corruption, etc) are the subject of increasing public and media criticism;
- combating drug-related crime: crimes and offences linked to the production, supply, storage, consumption and traffic in drugs are the subject of increasing concern, as is the marijuana culture;
- there is a public perception of immigration as a growing threat;
- combating corruption in the administration (health, education and justice), which is the target of strong public criticism.

Spain

Population: 40 100 000.

General crime figures

The crime statistics show little change (- 1%) between 1996 and 2000 (923 269 offences were recorded in 2000).

The crime rate was 23 per thousand inhabitants in the year 2000.

Offences against property declined: the number of thefts fell (- 4.3%), especially the number of burglaries (- 10.2%), but this was tempered by a new surge in car thefts (+ 18%). In contrast, offences against the person rose appreciably, particularly intentional homicides (+ 24%), sexual offences (+ 6,3%) and violent crimes (+ 38%).

5.4% of all identified offenders were minors (up to the age of 16), whereas 9.3% were women and 21.7% were foreigners.

The May 2002 prison population was 50 656, representing 126 per 100 000 inhabitants.

In the national victim survey carried out in 2000, 19% of respondents claimed to have been victims of crime in 1999. No national survey covers feelings of insecurity.

Security responsibilities

The police force is 192 000 strong (2001 figure), so it has 479 members per 100 000 population. It should be noted that, at regional level, only two autonomous communities have a regional police force (the *mossos d'esquadra* in Catalonia and the *erchaintza* in the Basque Country).

The national legal service was 5 700 strong in 2001, representing 14 per 100 000 population.

The age of criminal responsibility is 16.

The main penalties imposed are fines and fixed penalties (including withdrawals of driving licences), custodial sentences and deprivation of civic rights.

In the crime prevention sphere, Spain has passed from a punitive model to an approach based more on prevention and on co-operation with local authorities and communities. The structure of the state makes close co-operation necessary between the tiers of government. Most activities and resources are concentrated on the autonomous communities.

At national level, the police deal with urban areas and the *Guardia Civil* with rural areas, ports, borders and road traffic, applying national crime prevention programmes and directives. There is a national crime prevention programme targeted at large towns (*Plan de las Grandes Ciudades*). The aim of this is to make uniformed officers more visible, to increase their presence and to reduce incident response times. The *Programme de contactos, comunicacion y atencion al ciudadano* is intended to improve contact with the public (obtaining information from the general public, providing public information through the media and improving assistance to victims). Several programmes are under way to reduce the number of situations favourable to crime (tourist areas, vehicle protection, home surveillance, CCTV cameras near ticket machines and car parks, etc.). Several national plans have been introduced to prevent crime. These are intended mainly to combat violence against women, and two international associations are vital partners in this governmental activity (one which provides assistance to rape victims and another which helps to protect women who have suffered violence).

In the autonomous communities, the main focus of the work done is deterrence, the reduction of situations favourable to crime and community prevention work with at-risk groups. Politicians and representatives of the police meet regularly at three levels (*Juntas Locales de Seguridad*) to implement specific programmes and to start thematic or local studies. At regional level, there are numerous targeted action programmes covering specific kinds of offences (drugs, juvenile delinquency), as well as conciliation activities and public information work, especially in Catalonia. Regional prevention activities mainly involve integration programmes run in conjunction with the social services, programmes of assistance to individuals or groups in great difficulty (at school, in the linguistic sphere, economically or within the family) and programmes to prevent juvenile delinquency through the targeting of at-risk children and adolescents.

Where crime prevention is concerned, there are several organisations which are active in the field. The main one is the Spanish Forum for Urban Security (part of the European Forum for Urban Safety), currently chaired by the city of Girona.

Major current issues

The main issues currently under debate include:

- The inadequate number of members of the national police force. This debate is increasingly lively, as crime figures rise and the numbers of private security companies increase in line with them.

- The combating of delinquency related to immigration. This debate, which focuses mainly on offences against property, has recently shifted to the homicides committed by immigrants.
- The combating of domestic violence. The media make much of this debate, the main focal point of which is violence against women.
- The combating of drug addiction (the debate was far more important in the early nineties, but remains topical, especially in the large towns).

Sweden

Population: 8 900 000

General crime figures

The crime statistics show a decrease of 3.3% between 1996 and 2001 (with 1 214 968 offences recorded in 2000).

The crime rate was 134.5 per thousand in 2000.

Offences against the person saw an increase over the specified period (with a 12.8% rise in sexual offences and 16.6% in assault and battery), as did offences against property, a rise which was particularly sharp where thefts were concerned (10%). In contrast, drug-related offences were stable. The crime detection rate has recently improved (26% in 2000 as against 22% in 1996), whereas the figure had declined steeply over the previous ten-year period.

The proportion of crimes committed by young people aged 15 to 20 was 25% in 2000, this age group being more particularly involved in thefts (both of vehicles and snatch thefts). The proportion committed by women was 19%. No figures are available about the number of crimes committed by foreigners.

The prison population was 5 678 (representing 68 per 100 000 members of the population) in September 2001.

Of the members of the public questioned in 1999, 25% claimed to have been victims of crime (the figure for 2000 had been 24%), 2.2% of whom had been victims of crimes against the person (ICVS figures).

There being no national survey of crime victims, the survey carried out by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute shows that Swedish people have a relatively high feeling of security. Furthermore, 61% of the people interviewed in 2000 believed the police to be effective in their neighbourhood, where 86% said that they felt safe.

Security responsibilities

The police force is 16 500 strong, with 185 members for every 100 000 of the population.

There is a National Police Board, to which three specialised departments report: a national security department, a national crime research department and a forensic mortuary.

There are 21 regional police directorates.

The age of criminal responsibility is 15.

There is a tendency towards more severe penalties: 23% of all penalties now involve prison sentences and supervised or conditional releases (compared to 12% in 1980).

Mediation is a recent innovation: the government conducted a pilot experiment in this expanding field in 1998, and is now drawing up legislative texts.

The BRA (National Council for Crime Prevention) was set up in 1974 and reports to the Ministry of Justice. It provides expert information and assistance to the government. It exists to encourage crime prevention measures through evaluation, research and development activities. It focuses on three main lines, endeavouring to reduce opportunities for crime, behaviour linked to criminal practices and the re-offending rate. The National Council for Crime Prevention brings together representatives of the university, school and policing worlds, as well as representatives of private bodies and local authorities. It was made responsible in 1999 for helping to arrange local prevention activities, to which end it has a special division set up that same year. This division grants funds to local projects, carries out information and education campaigns, is active in research and development and carries out assessments with a view to increasing knowledge about local crime prevention work.

The current Swedish crime prevention partnership policy was introduced under the national crime prevention programme entitled "Our Collective Responsibility". This is a three-part programme:

- The government and authorities need to increase their vigilance as to the consequences of social developments and of all public policies on crime prevention programmes;
- There is a need to develop, and increase the effectiveness of, legislation and public action relating to crime and offenders;
- Action needs to be taken to support and promote citizen participation and co-operation among authorities, businesses, individuals and corporations involved in crime prevention at local level.

A number of regional partnership projects have been started to help to set up and run crime prevention councils in municipalities. Co-operation had to be started between county authorities, the police, regional councils and county administrative boards. The small number of players is an obstacle to the development of such projects, and another is funding, also a recurrent problem at regional level.

The great majority of crime prevention projects run in partnership are organised at local level. There were more than 200 local crime prevention councils in 2001, spanning a total of 289 local authorities. Their members include representatives of municipalities, social services, schools and the police. The commonest kind of activities which take place during local projects are neighbourhood watch programmes and various kinds of patrols conducted by adults.

Major issues

The main issues under debate are the combating of prostitution and the prevention of insecurity at the workplace.

Switzerland

Population: 7 230 000

General crime statistics

These show a 13.6% fall in the amount of crime between 1996 and 2000 (with 270 733 offences recorded in the year 2000). The 2001 statistics nevertheless show a rise of approximately 2%.

The crime rate in the year 2001 was 38.1 per thousand.

Offences against property represented almost 90% of the offences recorded, with a decline of 13.4% between 1996 and 2000, among the figures being -15.7% for thefts (-17% for vehicle thefts) and -19% for burglaries. The total number of thefts stabilised in 2001, with a fall in the number of vehicles stolen and a rise in the other categories. Where offences against the person are concerned, homicides declined by 18.6%, while sexual offences rose by 3.2% over the period, in spite of a steep fall between 1999 and 2000. Assault and battery rose steeply (by 30.3%), while drug-related offences increased by 9.2%, largely between 1999 and 2000. The 2001 statistics confirm the upward trend in offences against the person (including homicides) and in verbal and physical violence.

Minors (aged under 17) accounted for 18.4% of the 97 546 identified offenders in 2000 (committing 22.4% of the offences), while 15.9% of offenders were female and 45.4% were foreign (committing 53.3% of the offences).

The prison population was 5 160 (equivalent to 71 prisoners per 100 000 population) on 1 September 2001.

According to the annual national victim survey conducted by the Lausanne School of Forensic Science and Criminology and the ICVS international victim survey conducted in 2000, 18% of respondents had been victims of crime in 1999, compared with the 1995 figure of 26.7%.

Where people's feelings of insecurity are concerned, the same survey revealed that 21% of the people interviewed in 2000 did not feel safe alone in the street at night, as compared to the 1996 figure of 17%. Some 27% of those questioned felt that their home was likely to be burgled during the year ahead (compared to 29% in 1996).

Security responsibilities

The police force is approximately 18 400 strong (2002 figure), with 254 police per 100 000 population. Within the system of the Swiss Confederation, the police forces are a cantonal responsibility. There is federal involvement only in certain cases relating to the trafficking of human beings, organised crime, money laundering, counterfeiting, drug trafficking and corruption. The Federal Office for Police (fedpol.ch) provides information, co-ordination and analysis relating to Switzerland's internal security.

The cantonal police forces systematically bear responsibility for the implementation of security policies, and they co-operate with one another. There are also a number of ad hoc partnerships at local level. Partnership is also a feature of relations between cantons, through police agreements on the passing on of criminal records, with cantons helping each other out in investigations which extend beyond the cantonal sphere. Working groups within the police boards encourage mutual technical assistance and the creation of uniform databanks.

Some cantons have municipal police forces at local level, while others do not, and their powers - where they do exist - also vary. Some cantonal centralisation projects have culminated in a single police force. In Bern and Zurich, the municipal police force has the same status as the cantonal police.

There is no national record of the number of judges or members of the national legal service, nor of the types of penalties imposed.

The age of criminal responsibility is 7 (a bill exists under which it would be raised to 10).

Mediation has developed recently, mainly through pilot projects taking the form of pre- and post-court conciliation procedures involving victims and offenders.

Several federal crime prevention plans have been inaugurated and implemented by the cantons. A programme to combat violence against women was begun at federal level in 1999-2000. There have already been numerous programmes combating the sexual exploitation of children and juvenile delinquency. A national crime victim assistance programme was started under a federal law of 1993, covering the arrangements for assistance and for compensation. Numerous programmes have been started at cantonal level.

The Swiss Crime Prevention Centre is a specialised co-ordination body of the Conference of Cantonal Directors of Justice and Police (CDDJP). It exists to devise and implement campaigns and projects in the crime prevention sphere. It carries out thematic campaigns, such as one calling for a united front against violence and another against investment fraud, in co-operation with Swiss police organisations and other partners.

The cantons are the main parties involved in crime prevention. Most have crime prevention guidelines, and some have signed service contracts for the police. Local authorities' role in crime

prevention varies in the different cantons, also depending on whether or not a municipal police force exists.

Many national and international organisations are involved in grass-roots crime prevention activity. There are over 130 bodies which provide assistance to crime victims.

Major issues

The main current issues are:

- legal and illegal immigration. Lawfully resident foreigners constitute approximately a quarter of Switzerland's current population, and there are also illegal immigrants, and these facts are perceived by the population as a risk factor;
- juvenile delinquency and violence in the media are the subject of ongoing debates;
- a national debate is under way on alternatives to imprisonment, and this has emphasised the overrepresentation of foreigners in Swiss prisons and their lack of access to alternative measures.

“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”

Population: 2 020 000

General crime statistics

The statistics show a 32% fall in the amount of crime between 1996 and 2001.

The 2001 crime rate was 8.4 per thousand.

Offences against property recorded an overall decrease (-7.8% for thefts), while offences against the person also fell (assault and battery went down by 41.2% and sexual offences by 8.3%, although homicides rose by 14.6% over the given period). Drug-related offences increased by 44.2% between 1996 and 2001.

25% of all identified offenders in 2001 were minors (aged 14-18). No information is available about the percentage of women in this total.

The prison population on 1 September 2001 was 1 413 (equivalent to 70 detainees per 100 000).

No national victim survey is carried out.

No national survey is conducted to ascertain how insecure people feel.

Security responsibilities

The police forces (uniformed officers only) count 8 506 members, which is equivalent to 421 police force per 100 000. These police forces are divided into various sectors, with a public order maintenance directorate, a border police directorate and a special road safety detachment.

Approximately 700 people work in the private security sector. There are some 20 private security companies, grouped together in an association known as “Person and Property Protection”.

The age of criminal responsibility is 16.

The main penalties imposed are fines, prison sentences, supervised release and court reprimands.

Mediation is not used in the criminal justice system.

Several national crime prevention plans have been set up. These relate mainly to combating juvenile delinquency, preventing the sexual exploitation of children (a plan which is part of the National Programme against Juvenile Delinquency) and combating drug addiction (this plan was launched in 1996).

Central government gives impetus to the national crime prevention strategy through a programme known as the Government Crime Prevention Programme, and, although it does give local authorities a part to play, it is the government which plays the major role.

Under the Government Crime Prevention Programme, regional authorities are responsible for setting up regional programmes and for organising information campaigns with a view to measures being taken which are appropriate to the region's social and crime situation.

Several organisations are involved in action to prevent crime at grassroots level. Among them are UNICEF, First Children's Embassy and Megasi.

Major issues

The major issues are:

- the fight against drug addiction;
- the combating of juvenile delinquency;
- the prevention of violence on television;
- the combating of prostitution and of the trafficking of human beings;
- putting a stop to begging;
- the prevention of weapons trafficking.

Turkey

Population: 65 480 000

General crime figures

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 17.9% decrease in volume from 1996 to 1999 (247 766 offences recorded in 1999).

The crime rate for 2000 was 3.8‰.

Within the overall crime figures, offences against property decreased between 1996 and 1999 (-8.8% for thefts and burglaries), as did offences against persons (-14.7% for assault and battery, although homicide increased by 23% and rapes by 6% over the same period). Drug-related offences also increased by 43.7%.

Young persons (15-18 years) accounted for 13.45% of all offenders identified in 2000, as compared with 6.88% for women and 8.27% for foreigners.

The total prison population at 1 September 2001 was 61 336, giving an incarceration rate of 94 per 100 000.

No national crime victim surveys are conducted.

No national surveys are conducted of feelings of insecurity.

Security responsibilities

The police services comprised a total of 166 000 officers in 2000, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 253.5 per 100 000.

There are two national law enforcement bodies: the national police force, which is responsible for security in urban areas, and the Gendarmerie, which has the same responsibilities for rural areas. The national police force has a special department dealing with juvenile delinquency.

In 2000 the judicial sector comprised 23 873 officials, including 8 739 judges (giving a judge-citizen ratio of 13.34 per 100 000).

The age of criminal liability is 19.

The criminal justice system has no mediation procedure.

There have been several national crime prevention strategies, on combating violence against women (particularly snatch thefts, which primarily affect women), combating sexual exploitation of children, assistance for crime victims (particularly female victims), preventing educational underachievement (with support from various NGOs) and combating juvenile delinquency.

Turkey has no national crime prevention council or similar body. There is legislation on the processing of criminal cases, but no laws on crime prevention or on the specific issues of urban security.

Crime prevention is a fairly recent concept in Turkey. The police authorities have just begun to discuss the preventive approach to crime, but the long tradition of suppression and punishment rather than prevention continues to predominate.

The Minister of Justice, who heads the Directorate General of Police, plays an essential role in maintaining public security. Mayors have no local powers in this field.

There are no legislative mechanisms or *ad hoc* committees to facilitate local partnerships, but the police forces and the Gendarmerie do closely co-operate in the eastern part of the country in combating terrorism. Both security forces have special powers in this particular region.

Turkey has no NGOs dealing with urban security.

Major issues under debate

The main debates are as follows:

- combating drug abuse, particularly in secondary schools;
- combating bag-snatching: the frequency of such thefts has placed this phenomenon at the centre of public debate;
- combating bank robberies: the incidence of this type of crime has increased spectacularly over recent months, attracting intensive media coverage;
- combating alcoholism at school.

Ukraine

Population: 50 500 000

General crime figures

Official statistics on recorded crime highlight a considerable decrease in volume (-10.3%) from 1996 to 2000 (553 594 offences recorded in 2000).

The crime rate for 2000 was 11.09‰.

All the major categories of crime dropped either considerably (including -31.3% for sexual offences, -18.7% for assault and battery and -10.3% for drug-related offences), or less spectacularly (-1.83% for homicides and -4.7% for thefts and burglaries).

Young persons (14-18 years) accounted for 1935 of the 309 057 offenders identified in 2000, as compared with 14.9% for women and 0.9% for foreigners.

The total prison population at 1 November 2001 was 219 955, giving an incarceration rate of 435 per 100 000.

Several crime victim and police satisfaction surveys were conducted by the police services, but no significant conclusions can as yet be drawn from them.

Security responsibilities

The Ukrainian police (MVD) is facing many financial difficulties in that the authorities hold the view that national subsidies only cover 30% of its financial needs. The net effect of this has been mass departures by officers from the profession, or even increased corruption.

In order to improve the of image the police and its relations with the general public, a new Police Directorate of Public Relations has been set up. This new institution has led to the implementation of crime victim surveys and other analytical instruments to improve identification of public needs. It has also helped run experimental projects with municipal police services in order to assess actual crime rates more accurately.

In connection with the judicial system, after independence the country introduced numerous reforms aimed at safeguarding judges from any outside influence.

Public prosecutors still occupy a central position in the judicial system. Their overall numbers have greatly increased since the collapse of the Soviet Union, given that in 1997 there three times as many of them as there had been in 1986, even though there is now a downward trend. This recent decrease has not led to any decrease in the public prosecutors' powers of supervision of legality, because the socio-economic crisis has increased public demand for inexpensive legal aid.

Broadly speaking, the criminal justice system has been reinforced to the extent that defendants' rights are now more systematically taken into account (in 1997 and 1998 one-third of all persons appealing against detention on remand were released) and that more cases now come before the courts.

Despite the criticism from some quarters, and even from the authorities, about the effectiveness of the system in combating crime, the lack of a central data base on crime precludes any objective appraisal of the impact of the measures implemented.

Major issues under debate

The main debates on security matters concern improving the judicial and police systems with a view to ensuring greater independence and effectiveness, particularly by combating corruption and expediting judicial procedures. Some people also think that the criminal data collection system should be improved by delegating responsibility for supervising crime statistics to independent bodies.

United Kingdom

Population: 60 200 000

(England and Wales: 53 400 000; Scotland: 5 100 000; Northern Ireland: 1 700 000)

Since the statistics on Scotland and Northern Ireland are kept completely separately from those on England and Wales, they will be presented separately at the end of this section.

General crime figures (England and Wales)

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 9% increase between 1996 and 2001 (5 527 082 offences recorded in 2001). Crime counting methods underwent radical changes in 1998 and 2001.

The crime rate for 2001 was 103.3‰.

Within the overall crime figures, there is a regular increase in offences against persons, which accounted for 12.3% of offences in 2001, 13.7% if we include violent robberies (with an increase in volume of almost 15% since 1996, according to current categories, and rising numbers of homicides, muggings and sexual offences but a decrease in incidence of assault and battery), whereas offences against property have fallen slightly (decrease in total numbers of thefts, including -31% for burglaries and -27% for car thefts).

Young persons (10-17 years) accounted for 8.9% of all offenders identified in 2001, as compared with 5.1% for women and 8.6% for foreigners.

The total prison population at 1 June 2002 is 71 723, giving an incarceration rate of 134 per 100 000.

According to the annual crime victim survey (the British Crime Survey, BCS), the number of interviewees claiming to have suffered crimes stagnated at around 24.5% of the population in 2001 and 2002, after a period of constant decline (from 30.9% in 1996). The BCS points to an overall decrease of 22% since 1997.

The annual national survey of feelings of insecurity included in the BCS reflects some degree of stability: 32% of those interviewed feel unsafe in the street after nightfall and 6% in their homes under the same conditions. At the same time, two-thirds of the interviewees have the feeling that ambient crime is increasing (or even soaring, according to around half of them), although the fear of burglaries, physical assaults and car thefts (or thefts from cars) has constantly decreased since 1998.

Security responsibilities (England and Wales)

The police forces comprised a total of 127 231 officers in 2001, giving an officer-citizen ratio of 243 per 100 000. There are 43 regional police forces, which vary in size and territorial cover depending on the density and profile of the corresponding population. Other police forces have specialised national responsibilities (railway police, Ministry of Defence police, etc). Every year the Home Office sets targets and priorities for local and regional police services. In addition to the traditional police forces, the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS, set up in 1997) and the National Crime Squad NSA (set up in 1998) have been operating independently from Central Government since April 1998 and are accountable to independent administrative authorities (Service Authorities).

There are also between 395 000 and 400 000 guards employed in the private security sector.

In 1999 there were 31 070 judges and magistrates, giving a judge-citizen ratio of 58.2 per 100 000.

The age of criminal liability is 10.

The main sentences passed are imprisonment, fines and confiscations, supervision orders and community work.

A mediation sector has been introduced using local projects and initiatives for dialogue between crime victims and offenders, prompting offenders to compensate their victims ("restorative justice"), initiated by the National Probation Service or voluntary organisations. The Home Office is itself now financing and supervising a number of pilot projects in this field.

There have been several national crime prevention strategies:

- in July 2000 the VAW (Violence against Women Initiative) was launched as part of the Home Office Crime Reduction Programme (CRP), aimed at identifying the most effective techniques for combating crime. The VAW targets domestic violence, rape and sexual assault. The results of the campaign will be published in 2004;
- sexual exploitation of children is being combated under the Project Reflex (April 2001) as part of the campaign against sexual exploitation and forced labour, particularly that affecting women and children. Project Reflex concentrates particularly on organised networks;
- the year 2001 saw a complete overhaul of the Victims Charter;
- the Youth Justice Board and the Young Offenders Team (YOT) combats juvenile delinquency;
- assistance for victims is organised by the Victim Support voluntary agency.

A national crime prevention committee was set up in 2001, namely the Ministerial Sub-Committee on the Criminal Justice System (Crime Reduction).

A National Community Safety Network has been set up nationwide in order to promote research into questions of security at the national, regional and local levels.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 set up 376 local partnerships for each district. The local authorities have powers in the field of maintaining law and order, and are required to form partnerships with the local police, also involving the various local agencies and organisations. Efforts

are made to encourage citizen and community involvement. Many local authorities have crime prevention and reduction committees.

Still in connection with crime prevention, several NGOs are active in the field of urban security, including the National Neighbourhood Watch Association, Crime Concern, Crimestoppers and National Church Watch.

Majors issues under debate

The following majors issues are the subject of public discussion:

- resurgence of violent crimes and the impact of increasing media coverage of such crimes;
- juvenile delinquency and the requisite responses;
- ethnic violence;
- delinquency on the public highway.

The situation in Scotland

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a decrease in volume of almost 7% from 1996 to 1997, followed by a relative stagnation until 2000 (423 172 offences recorded in 2000).

The crime rate for 2000 was 81.4‰.

Within the overall crime figures, following a decrease between 1996 and 1997, offences against persons have increased by 15.5% since 1997 despite a slight drop in 2000. On the other hand, offences against property are falling, particularly burglaries (-20%) and car thefts (-23%).

The total prison population at 1 March 2002 is 6 166, giving an incarceration rate of 120 per 100 000.

The annual crime victim survey (Scottish Crime Survey) points to a high and growing rate of crimes reported to the police, unlike the rest of Great Britain. However, there has been a considerable increase in the number of muggings and violent crimes, even though the number of victims has remained steady or even declined (approx. 20%), stabilising at levels lower than those recorded in the rest of Great Britain.

Feelings of insecurity at national level have decreased considerably since 1996, even though those interviewed are more pessimistic at the local level. 26% of interviewees do not feel safe. Furthermore, fewer people feel safe at home in the evening (3%) or in the streets after nightfall (20%).

The situation in Northern Ireland

Statistics on recorded crime highlight a 9.5% increase since 1998, when the new crime counting method was introduced (119 912 offences recorded in 2000).

The crime rate for 2000 was 71.13‰.

The increase has mainly concerned offences against persons (violent crimes, including sexual offences, which have increased from 10 to 15%), but also certain offences against property, especially car thefts (+11.5%) and burglaries (+8.5%), as well as drug-related offences (+3%).

The total prison population at 24 June 2002 is 1 005, giving an incarceration rate of 59 per 100 000.

According to the crime victim surveys, even though the number of victims (17% of those interviewed) and the frequency of most crimes are lower than in England and Wales, Northern Ireland has the same level of violent crime (muggings, assault and battery, armed robbery). On the other hand, homicide, car theft and sexual attacks, particularly rape, are over-represented as compared with the European average.

In the section on "feelings of insecurity" in the crime victim surveys, 15% of interviewees do not feel safe when at home alone, and 45% in the streets after nightfall.

The majors issues under debate include:

- the links between the relative decrease in political and sectarian violence and the rise in ordinary crime, particularly among young people;
- the difficulties of introducing crime prevention mechanisms in the communities and involving citizens in neighbourhood watch schemes because of the context of political violence and the continuing inter-community and inter-denominational tensions;
- the fact that the Catholic community still has difficulty relating to the police and judicial systems.

Canada

Population: 31 260 388

General crime figures

The crime statistics show an 8.97% decline between 1996 and 2000 (2 476 520 offences being reported in 2000).

The crime rate in the year 2000 was 80.5 per thousand.

Crimes against property represented 56% of reported offences in 2000, a decline over the period 1996 to 2000 (thefts fell by 14%). Offences against the person (12.8% of all offences in 2000) also fell over the given period (-11.7% for homicides, -20% for sexual offences and -4.7% for assault and battery). Offences involving drugs, in contrast, rose (by 35.1%).

20.7% of the 547 500 identified offenders in 2000 were minors (12-17 year olds), while 18.4% were women.

The prison population was 31 624 as at 1 July 2001, a rate of 102 per 100 000 members of the population.

The figures in the annual national victim surveys (General Social Survey and Violence Against Women Survey, conducted by Statistics Canada) show that 25% of the persons interviewed said that they had been victims of crime in 2000. This rate had remained stable between 1996 and 2000.

According to the annual national survey relating to feelings of insecurity, 25% of the persons questioned did not feel safe walking in their own neighbourhood at night. This feeling was shared by 42% of women, compared to 10% of men.

Security responsibilities

The police force numbers 77 099 (2001 figure), equivalent to 246 per 100 000 members of the population.

The age of criminal responsibility is 12.

Several national crime prevention plans have been set up. One relates to combating violence against women (this began in 1994), another (also started in 1994) is against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, while campaigns aimed at racism and crimes against indigenous peoples and in favour of assistance to crime victims have also been run (these began in 1998).

In more general terms, the government launched a National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention (in 1994) intended to reduce crime and the numbers of victims through action against the causes of crime, with the help of an approach based on social development. The National Strategy supports projects targeted at risk factors affecting people's lives, such as ill-treatment, violence, lack of parenting skills, alcoholism and drug addiction.

The National Strategy has entered its second phase (1998-2003). The main achievement of the first phase (1994-1997) had been to encourage co-operation between the federal, provincial and other tiers of government.

A National Crime Prevention Council was set up in 1994. This brought together people who were working on a voluntary basis to draw up a plan to combat the underlying causes of crime. They included child development specialists, academics, social workers, lawyers, police officers, doctors and business people. In 1998, this council became the National Crime Prevention Centre, acquiring greater scope and bearing the brunt of implementation of the National Strategy.

Some local partnerships have been set up, particularly through the Community Mobilisation Programme, which helps local authorities to plan crime prevention activities and to take action to

strike at the deep-seated causes of crime. This programme is intended to facilitate the setting up of local partnerships, to increase public awareness of, and support for, crime prevention and to increase the capacity of various bodies to combat crime and to prevent people from falling victim to crime.

The Business Action Programme on Crime Prevention calls on commercial and professional associations, both national and provincial, to play their part in strengthening national crime prevention activities. These associations' extensive networks can help local authorities to prevent crime, to exchange information and to take action.

The aim of the Crime Prevention Investment Fund is to identify and evaluate social development approaches likely to prevent crime. Its main aim is to collect reliable information about effective methods, or methods which are likely to reduce the risk factors linked to crime and the likelihood of falling victim to crime.

Where crime prevention is concerned, several NGOs are working at grassroots level. Among these are Alice's Kids - Rebuilding a Safe Home, Children who Witness Violence, Women Abuse Project and Mooka'am: Ending Aboriginal Family Violence through Awareness, Action and Support.

Major issues

The major issues under discussion are:

- Combating juvenile delinquency: the debate turns mainly on the issue of the age of criminal responsibility;
- Combating domestic violence: discussions focus on violence committed against women and children within the family unit;
- Combating racism, which affects mainly the indigenous peoples.

APPENDIX

EUROPEAN FORUM FOR URBAN SAFETY

Urban Safety Questionnaire

When no data is available, please indicate the relevant person or organisation if there is any.

I. The insecurity issue

I.1 Overall Criminality observed

Crime rate (Crimes recorded by the police per thousand inhabitants per year)

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001

Most important types of offence recorded, respective amount and evolution in the last 5 to 10 years

1-

2-

3-

4-

5-

Complementary remarks

I.2 Offenders

Minors (in %)	Women (in %)	Foreigners (in %)

Prison population: (year:)

I.3 Victims and victimisation

Is there a national enquiry on victimisation?

Yes No

If so, is it annual other (specify):

What have the main results been?

Complementary information:

I.4 Feeling of insecurity and fear of crime

Is there a national enquiry on the feeling of insecurity?

Yes No

If so, is it annual other (specify):

What have the main results been?

Complementary information:

II Distribution of powers and competence for safety matters

II.1 Distribution by sector

II.1.1 Police forces

Workforce

Size of police forces	per thousand inhabitants

General organisation: powers and territorial jurisdiction of the various forces:

II.1.2 Judicial system

Size of workforce	Total number of judges	Judges per 1000 inhabitants

Age of criminal responsibility:

What are the main types of sentences pronounced (including measures other than prison terms)?

II.1.3 Mediation and conflict resolution

Is there a specific mediation and conflict resolution sector? Yes No

If so, what are its main features?

II.1.4 Non Governmental Organisations in the field of urban safety

If there are any, what are the main NGOs operating in the field of urban safety or with a significant role in implementing security policies? (full title and contact details)

II.1.5 Private security forces

Number of people working in the private sector of security:

Complementary information:

II.2 Competence of State, regional and local authorities

II.2.1 National level

Are there any national programs addressing the following topics?

-Prevention of violence against women Yes No

Starting date: Short description:

-Sexual abuse and exploitation of children Yes No

Starting date: Short description:

-Help to victims of crime Yes No

Starting date: Short description:

-Fight against truancy academic failure Yes No

Starting date: Short description:

-Fight against juvenile delinquency Yes No

Starting date: Short description:

-Other (specify)

II.2.2 Regional level (regions, provinces, Länder...)

What is the regions' sphere of competence in terms of crime prevention and fight against crime?

II.2.3 Local authorities

What is the local authorities sphere of competence in crime prevention and fight against crime?

What specific roles do elected officials and more specifically city mayors play?

Complementary information:

II.3 Partnerships and co-operation in the area of urban safety

Is there a National Crime Prevention Council Yes No

If so...

-Complete name:

-starting date:

Are there institutions or bodies mainly focused on urban safety? Yes No

If so, specify contact details

Are there legal documents regulating urban safety and crime prevention? Yes No

If so, what level of government do they apply to?

Is there a principle of partnership or co-operation in the field of urban safety? Yes No

Are there legal documents on partnership or co-operation in the area of urban safety? Yes No

If so, what level of government do they concern?

Are there structures of partnership or co-operation in the area of urban safety at the **regional** level? Yes No

If so what are they?

Are there structures of partnership or co-operation in the area of urban safety at the **local** level? Yes No

If so what are the main ones?

Is there a national program organising partnerships and co-operation? Yes No

If so...

-Starting date:

-General content

complementary information :

III Main debates in the field of urban safety

What are the main topics of political and public debates in the field of security? (For instance, drug addiction, hooliganism, racism, overcrowded jails, violence on TV, legal or illegal immigration, juvenile delinquency...) **Describe briefly.**

1-

2-

3-

4-

5-

IV Supplementary information and contacts

Questionnaire answered by

NAME

Institution or organisation

Address

Email

Tel

Fax