

Crime during the Covid-19 crisis with an emphasis on rural environments

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Introduction

Government measures and restrictions in response to Covid-19:

- Movement restricted to inside municipalities and regions
- Closed borders
- Public transport abolished
- Non-urgent shops closed
- Educational institutions closed
- Mandatory use of masks
- Curfew from 10pm to 5am



Crime during the Covid-19 pandemic in Slovenia

Certain forms of crime reduced or prevented:

- Thefts
- Robberies

Lead to the rise of corona crime:

- Smuggling
- Fraud
- Domestic violence



In Slovenia, until
21 September 2020,
compared to the same
period in 2019 there
has been:

- 3.8 % less thefts
- 0.1 % less major thefts
- 10 % more burglaries
- 25 % less robberies
- 10 % more domestic violence
- 18.4 % less crimes of juvenile neglect and cruel treatment
- 2 times more crimes in the field of child pornography

Increase in domestic violence

From the first of January to the thirtieth of November 2020, police officers have dealt with:

- 12.9 % more crimes against marriage
- 19.4 % more rape cases
- 33.3 % more murder cases
- 56.3 % more manslaughter cases



Cybercrime during Covid-19

- A lot of our activities have been transferred online
- Fake advertisements, fraud, spreading false information, online attacks and malware
- 43 % of small and medium sized enterprises were successfully attacked
- At least 65 thousand euros in damages



The economy and Covid-19

Corruption incidents mostly related to the purchase of virus protection equipment:

- Buying inappropriate antigenic tests
- UKC Ljubljana - larger stocks of masks and disinfectants disappeared
- Buying overpriced masks



The situation in foreign countries

- Police have been concentrated mainly in the cities where they have been carrying out the implemented measures.
- One in four farmers in the UK knows someone who has been forced to change their way of life, work and farming practices due to rural crime.
- Domestic violence has increased significantly and reports show that women and children are more exposed to abuse.
- The online activity of pedophiles has also increased.



Crime trends during Covid-19

- In March and April 2020, 25 % more murders were recorded compared to the same period in the years from 2015 to 2019. A few months later, the trend fell again to the average that was also typical for previous years
- Factors that have an impact on the diversity of data in these areas:
 - *Differences in restrictive measures*
 - *Socio-economic conditions*
 - *Predisposition to some types of crime and so on*
- In the United Kingdom, there has been an increase in the theft of machinery, agricultural equipment and livestock (four-wheelers, tractors, trailers, horse boxes, telescopic loaders, sheep and lamb)

In the future

- Experts predict an increase in crime in the future, due to the economic crisis and the consequences that will have a strong impact on people
- Many predict that the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic will affect people's intolerance in the future, which will be reflected with an increased number of crimes
- A whole set of physical, community and technological measures is needed to effectively combat organized rural crime.



Discussion



- In Slovenia, rural crime is not yet a significant problem, compared to the rest of the world.
- In the future we can expect that the crime rate will also increase in rural areas.

Suggestions to reduce rural crime

- Traceable devices on machines and other off-road vehicles.
- Establishment of a group of experts in the field of rural crime to cooperate with the border police and other authorities
- Warn and advise farmers on how to protect themselves
- Encourage farmers to report any misappropriation and criminal activity
- Build more police stations in several different parts of the countryside
- Establishment of a security group among local residents



[illegible]

We suggest:

- For more research to be carried out for a clearer picture and to make the work of police officers easier
- Examine crime from the second and third wave and make comparisons between them
- Conducting studies regarding the fear citizens have of crime
- Conducting studies on the level of confidence citizens have in the work of the state authorities during the crisis

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!