

8TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY



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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN CRIME PREVENTION

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Presentation Overview



1. Introduction to the topic

2. Structure:

- Reporting criminal activities
- Preventive actions and state-level institutions
- Cooperation with the community and the role of education

3. Conclusion

- Key points: **prevention**, **security**, and **cooperation**

Introduction

- *What is Public Participation ?*
- *Importance of the Topic:*

Cooperation between the public and the state is essential for effective crime prevention because the police cannot be everywhere at once.

Citizens provide valuable information, act as extra eyes and ears in the community, and help build trust between law enforcement and the public. This partnership increases the likelihood of identifying and preventing crime early.




Show how citizens can
support the police and
contribute to community
safety through cooperation
and active involvement

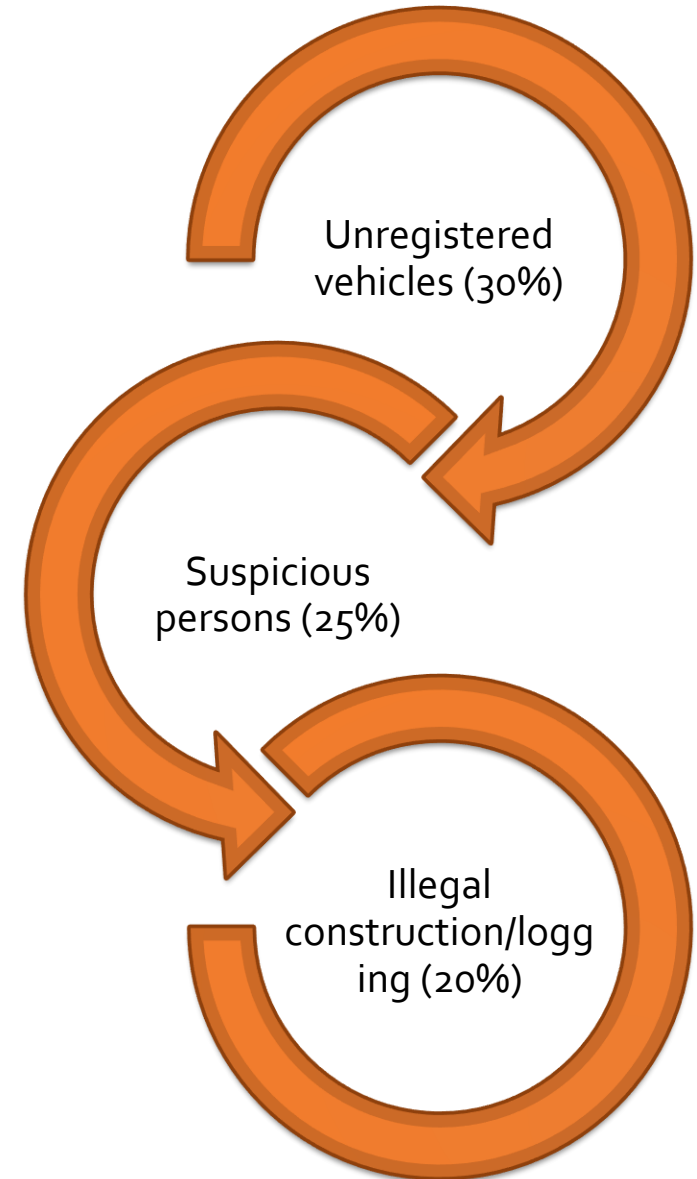
PRESENTATION GOAL



Reporting criminal activities

HOW CITIZENS REPORT CRIME:

1. Anonymous reporting – Hotlines, apps
 - (e.g., **5,000+ reports in Montenegro in 2023**).
2. Common reports, such as 
3. Cooperation – Witness testimonies, sharing evidence.



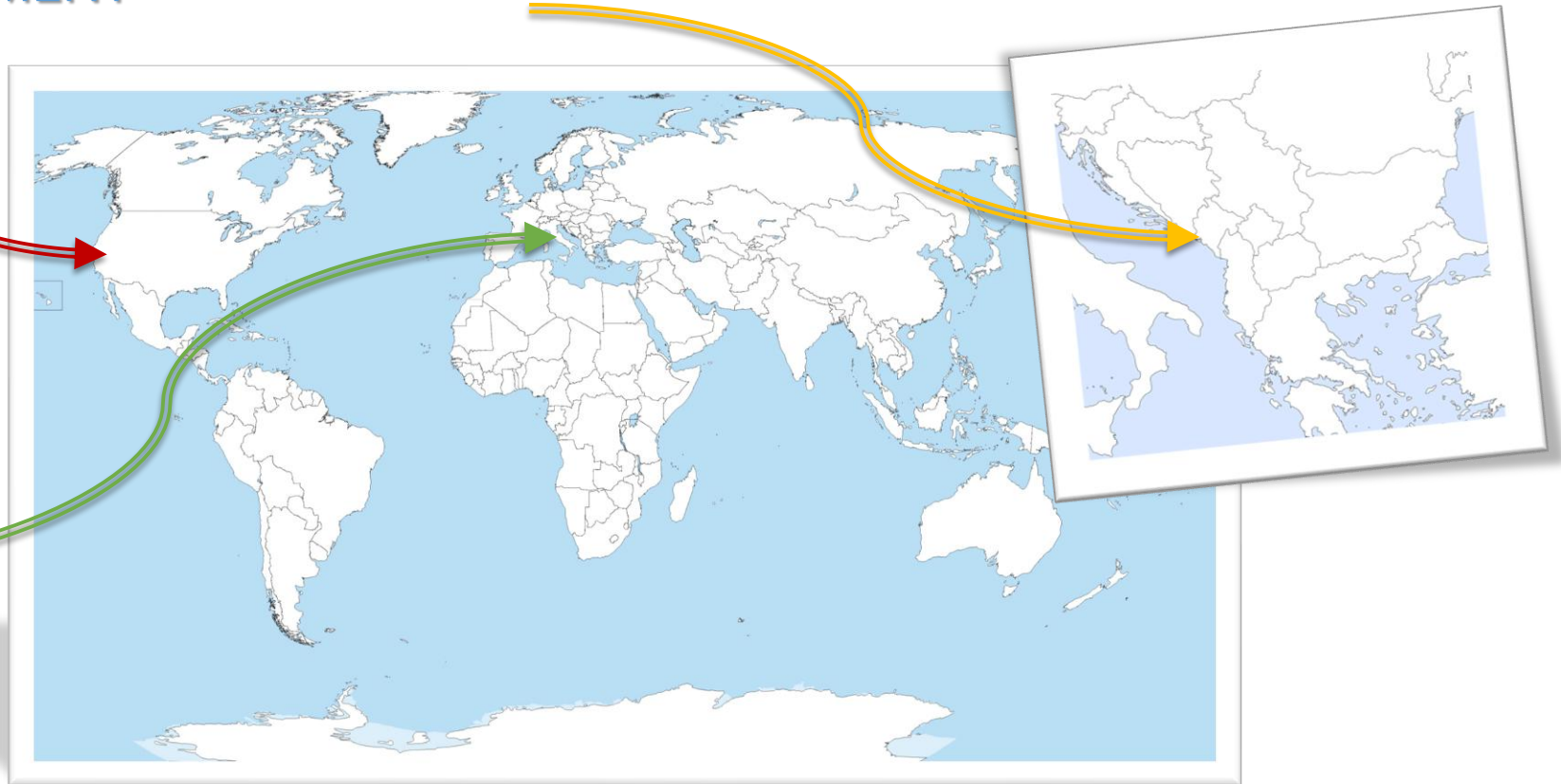
Reporting criminal activities

IMPACT OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- **45%** of U.S. crimes solved
via citizen tips (FBI)

- **40%** increase in reports
after witness protection
programs (Italy)

- **70%** of reports led to police action
- **10-15%** resulted in arrests (e.g., locating wanted persons)



Reporting criminal activities

HOW CITIZENS HELPED BUST A DRUG RING IN MONTENEGRO (2022)

Key Points:

- 🚨 **Anonymous tip** via police app led to seizure of **10kg cocaine** (€500k value) in Bar port
- Police surveillance **confirmed** suspicious container (hidden in fish cans)
- 👤 **3 arrests** (2 Montenegrins, 1 Serbian)



Preventive actions and state-level institutions

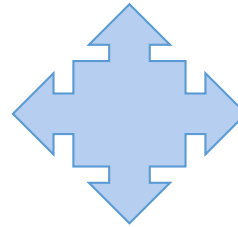
Global Theoretical Framework

WHAT DOES SCIENCE SAY?

KEY CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORIES

Routine Activity Theory (Felson & Clarke, 1998):
"Crime requires: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of guardianship."

Problem-Oriented Policing Model (Goldstein, 1990):
"Police must analyze the root causes of crime, instead of just reacting to it."



Witness Protection Study (Sebba, 1996):
"Anonymity increases crime reporting by 40%."

Link with Montenegro:

Lack of anonymous reporting channels, especially in a close-knit society where "everyone knows everyone."

Local Academic Research (Montenegro)

The Bystander Effect
(*Genovese Syndrome*) by
Jovan Ćirić:
'The Silent Epidemic
of Passivity'

Specifics of the *Balkan* regional
context:
Collective memories of party
nepotism and repression create
a 'culture of
silence.'

Quantification: **72%** of
respondents in ex-Yugoslav
countries avoid conflicts
(Ćirić, "*Psychology of Fear*")

Additional Factors:

- Historical *loss of trust* in
institutions.
- "Circle of Shame" – fear of
community judgment

Jovan Ćirić, Genovese syndrome, and the relevance of his research for Montenegro

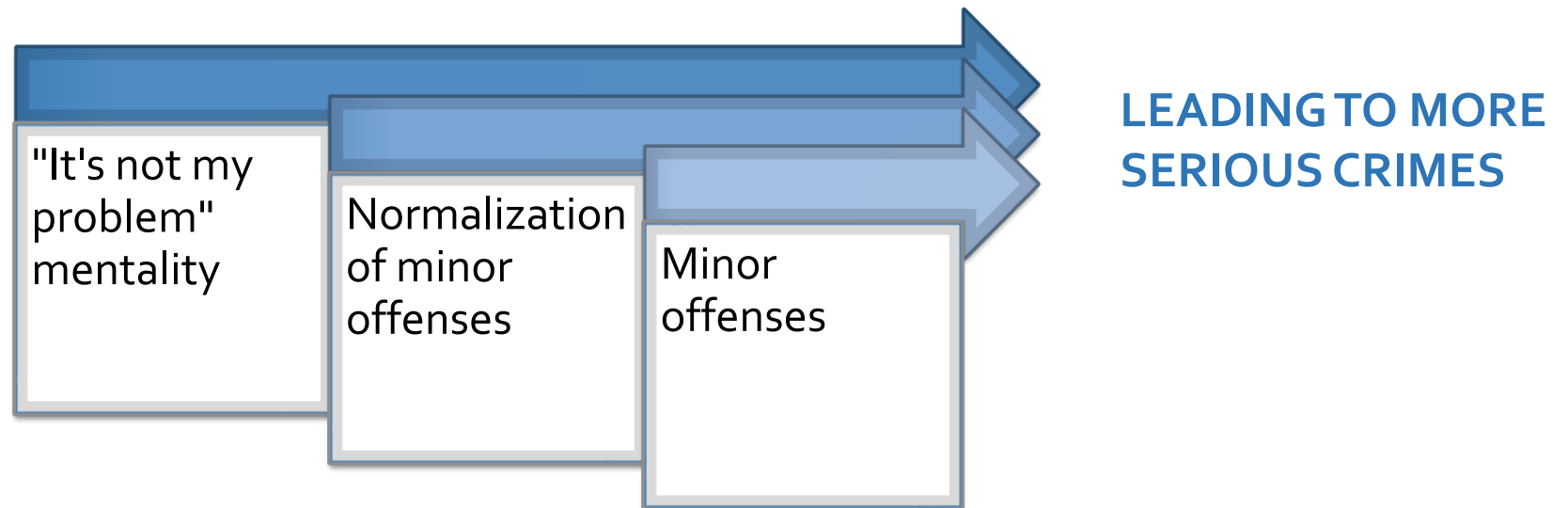
Ćirić's studies - The case of Catherine Genovese:

„There is an unwritten rule that the greater the number of people – observers, the smaller the likelihood that anyone will step in to help, or provide the necessary help in any effective way.”

(Jovan Ćirić Genovese syndrome, page 131)

Key factor: Fear of revenge and mistrust in institutions

Characteristics:



How Does *Genovese syndrome* manifest in Montenegro?

THE PROBLEM

72% won't
report petty
theft

Only 11% trust
institutional
response

Witnesses
disappear in
court cases

Tolerance of
illegal
construction

THE CONSEQUENCES

Preventive
program fail

Organized crime
grows

THE SOLUTIONS

Public awareness
campaigns

Encourage personal
responsibility

Better witness
protection



Cooperation with the community and the role of education

BUILDING SAFETY THROUGH EDUCATION

- ✓ "Officer in School" programs reduce youth crime by 30%
- ✓ Interactive workshops on cyber safety & bullying in Balkan schools
- ✓ Student-reported tips increase by 2x with police partnerships

Cooperation with the community and the role of education

Community & Media Engagement - NEIGHBORHOODS & NETWORKS FOR SAFETY

- Community centers in Sarajevo cut local crime by 25%
- Media campaigns boost crime reporting rates by 40%
- Influencers reach 5M+ teens with safety messages annually



- Communities with active watch programs + media partnerships see 50% faster crime resolution!

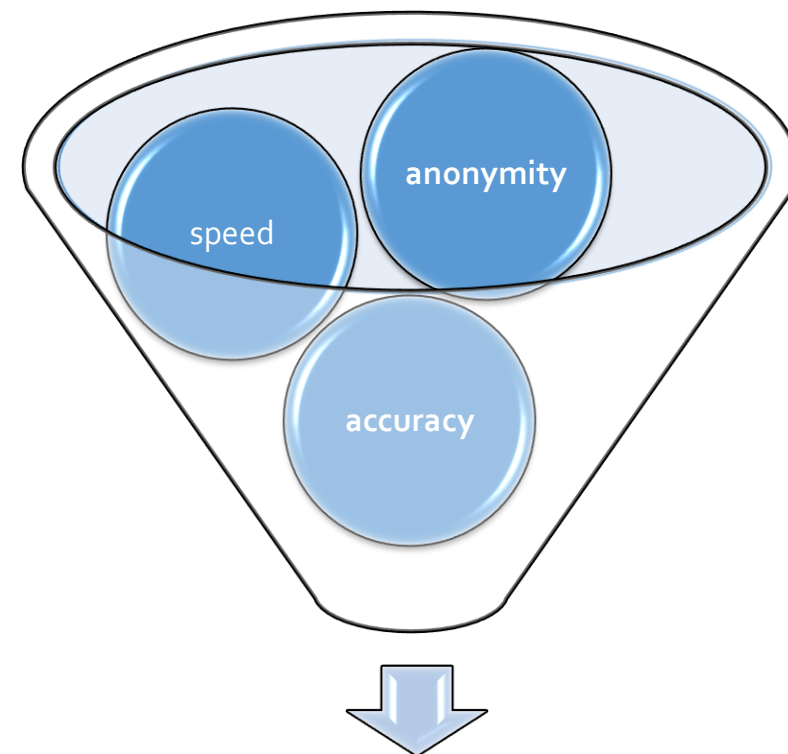
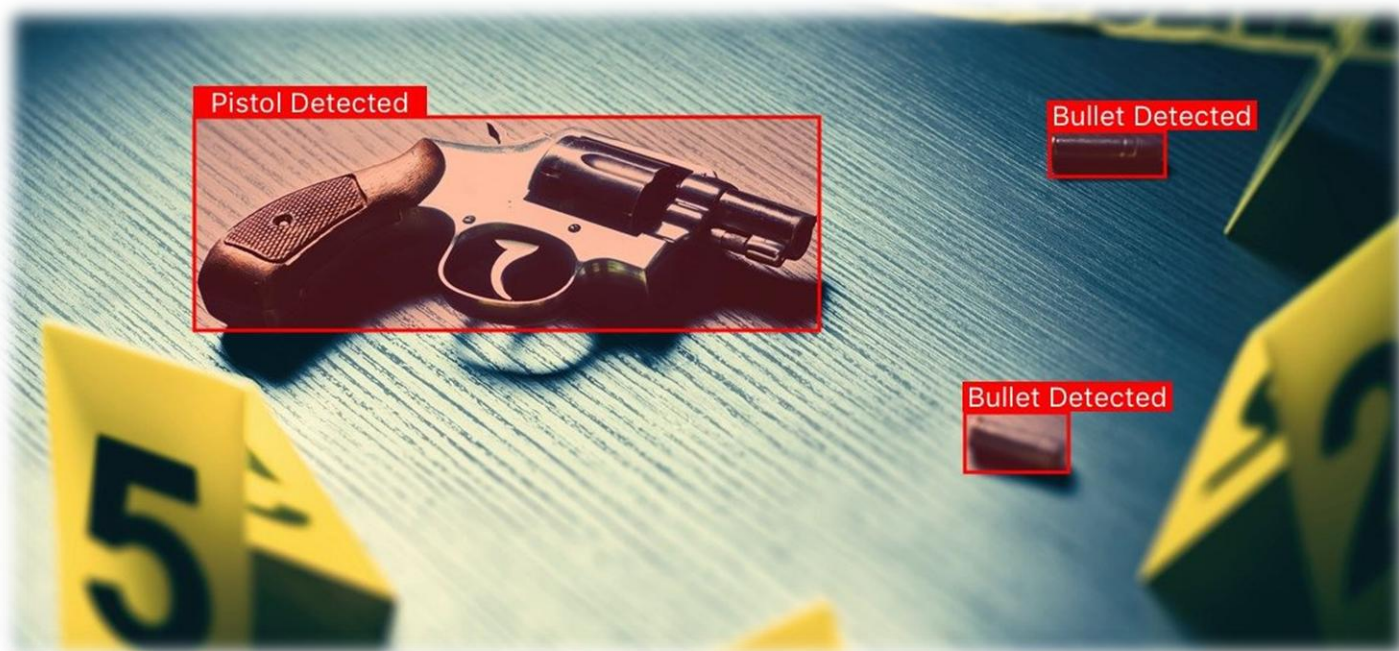


Cooperation with the community and the role of education

SMART TECH FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

Next-Gen Crime Reporting – Fast, Anonymous, Effective

- Will AI become our partner in fighting crime?



Why tech tools work?



What If Everyone Reported Just Once?

TOGETHER WE BREAK THE SILENCE!



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