

# 9TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY



University of Maribor

---

Faculty of  
Criminal Justice and Security



Erasmus+



Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

## RURALITY AND CRIME

Monika Lepoša & Aleksandra Rozina

# INTRODUCTION



- Crime in rural areas has long been neglected compared to urban crime

- Rural crime has its own characteristics
- It is often less visible, but that does not mean it does not exist

- Rural crime as social and spatial issues
- Rural areas are characterized by lower population density, stronger social ties and a greater influence of tradition

- Global research
- In Slovenia, rural crime plays an especially important role

# HISTORY OF RURAL CRIME

- Not a new phenomenon
- 1980s and 1990s; the last 20 years
- Early research focused on urban vs. rural crime
- USA, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Sweden
- Increase in crime
- A growing security issue

# EUROPE



- Interest
- Definition?
- Lower crime rate
- Conservative culture
- Scandinavian countries
- Closure of police stations
- Urban-centered

# ASIA



- Heterogeneous countries (developed/rural)
- Negligible contribution
- Japan – depopulation, social control
- China – organized crime
- India – caste system, structural inequality
- Southeast Asia – sexual exploitation of women, smuggling

# AUSTRALIA

- One of the most studied countries – why?
- Higher rates of property and violent crime
- New South Wales - Rural Crime Prevention Team
- Disproportionate victimization of Indigenous people



# AFRICA

- The majority lives in rural areas – 70%
- Least developed – South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria
- Driving forces - poverty, unemployment, conflicts, weak institutions
- Local control replaces the police



# AMERICA

## USA

- The most studied
- Shift from general to specific questions
- Violence against women – access to support?



## CANADA

- Loss of police presence
- Higher rates of property and violent crime
- Indigenous communities - isolation

## SOUTH AMERICA

- Extreme levels of violence, highest number of homicides
- Ecuador - key rural areas
- Organized crime



# SLOVENIA



- Slovenia is considered a distinctly rural country
  - Characteristics of rural areas
  - A sense of safety does not mean less crime
  - An important role of socio-economic factors
- 
- Most common types of crime
  - Environmental crime
  - Domestic violence, often unreported
  - “grey area” of crime
- 
- An important role of the police
  - Cooperation between the police and the local community is very important

# CONCLUSION



- In conclusion, rural crime is not a negligible issue
- Rural areas are often associated with greater safety
- At the global level, rural crime is present everywhere
- Effective crime control therefore requires a comprehensive approach
- Prevention and a better understanding of the specific characteristics of rural areas