



Safe Living Report

Safe Living Conditions

Sustainable Governance
Indicators 2017

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Indicator Safe Living Conditions

Question How effectively does internal security policy protect citizens against security risks?

41 OECD and EU countries are sorted according to their performance on a scale from 10 (best) to 1 (lowest). This scale is tied to four qualitative evaluation levels.

- 10-9 = Internal security policy protects citizens against security risks very effectively.
- 8-6 = Internal security policy protects citizens against security risks more or less effectively.
- 5-3 = Internal security policy does not effectively protect citizens against security risks.
- 2-1 = Internal security policy exacerbates the security risks.

Croatia

Score 9 In Croatia, crime represents no significant threat to public safety and security. The police are generally effective in maintaining public order and combating crime. The police and prosecutor's office collaborate effectively with international organizations and countries in the southeast European region, the European Union and internationally. Intelligence services cooperate with their counterparts within NATO and the European Union, and act within an integrated security system. Croatia does not face significant terrorist threats. Organized crime affects the country mostly through transnational and regional crime networks involved in drugs and human and arms trafficking.

Finland

Score 9 According to the 2016 OSAC Report, Finland continues to be a safe and secure environment for business, tourism and living. And indeed, Finland is still among the safest countries in Europe and features a very low crime rate. Still, there has been a crime rate increase in recent years. According to polls, Finnish citizens regard the police as one of the most reliable public institutions. The government established the First Program on Internal Security in 2004, and later modified and expanded it. In June 2012, the government adopted the Third Internal Security Program, which aims to reduce citizen's daily security concerns and place an emphasis on measures that prevent social exclusion and social polarization. The program's overall implementation is monitored by the Ministry of the Interior. Additionally, the government has adopted or is considering national strategies for combating organized crime, the informal economy and terrorism. Involving a collaboration between municipalities, regions, organizations, business and public administration, preparations for a new national strategy outline were initiated in August 2016 that is scheduled to for completion in April 2017.

Citation:

“Turvallisempi huominen. Sisäisen turvallisuuden ohjelma.” 26/2012. Ministry of Interior, Helsinki;
http://www.intermin.fi/download/34893_262012_STO_III_fi.pdf;
http://www.intermin.fi/fi/kehittamishankkeet/sisaisen_turvallisuuden_strategia

Japan

Score 9

Japan enjoys a very low crime rate, although it is unclear just how much the effectiveness of internal security policies contributes to this. Other social and economic factors are also at work. For major crimes such as homicide or hard-drug abuse in particular, Japan’s good reputation is well deserved. Terrorism also poses no major discernible threat today. The number of confirmed criminal cases has significantly declined in recent years. Another issue is the existence of organized gangs, so-called yakuza. These groups have recently moved into fraud and white-collar crimes. 2016 changes in the criminal justice legislation now allow for plea bargains with prosecutors, which could make it easier for low-ranking gang members to confess about orders from syndicate leaders.

Latvia

Score 9

The Ministry of Interior, state police, security police, state fire and rescue Service, state border guard, and Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs are responsible for domestic security policy. They collaborate on some policy issues, notably on immigration policy.

In 2015, crime rates have increased by 2.2% over 2014. There are 2,386 reported crimes per 100,000 inhabitants, the lowest such rate among the Baltic states. Despite international developments, the threat of terrorism is low. In 2015, there were no criminal offenses associated with terrorism. In late 2015, the security police started a criminal investigation into alleged participation in the military conflict in Syria. Currently, there are three active investigations into Latvian national’s involvement in the Syrian conflict.

Opinion polls from 2016 indicate that public trust in the police continues to rise and more people feel safe (74% of respondents report feeling safe or rather safe).

Citation:

1. Research center SKDS (2013), Attitude Toward the State Police, Available at (in Latvian): <http://www.vp.gov.lv/?id=704>, Last assessed: 20.05.2013

2. State Border Guard (2011), Official Report, Available at (in Latvian): http://www.rs.gov.lv/doc_upl/Valsts%20robezsardzes%202011.gada%20publiskais%20parskats.pdf, Last assessed: 20.05.2013

3. Ministry of Interior (2014), Public Report, Available at (in Latvian): http://www.iem.gov.lv/files/text/Gada_parskats_2014_wwwf%281%29.pdf, Last assessed: 22.11.2015

4. Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, Information Technology and Communications Department (2013), Crime statistics in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Available at: http://www.ird.lt/doc/statistika/duomenys_bv_per_2012m_%2001-12_men.pdf, Last assessed: 20.05.2013

New Zealand

Score 9

New Zealand's internal security is the responsibility of the police. By tradition, the prime minister takes ministerial responsibility for the national security and intelligence portfolio, although John Key broke with that tradition in 2014 by handing over day-to-day responsibility for intelligence services to the attorney general.

The New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) and the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) provide advisory services. In August 2016, the New Zealand Intelligence and Security Bill 2016 was introduced. The bill has reformed legislation and enhanced transparency of New Zealand's intelligence and security agencies. Expenditures for public order and safety are relatively high and growing, as New Zealanders feel crime to be a salient issue. Recent crime statistics show a considerable decline in criminal offense – partly as a result of an aging society in which the age groups that statistically commit more crimes are shrinking, and partly as a consequence of increased expenditures for police, criminal justice and prison services. However, there was a 2.3% increase in the victimization rate for the year to July 2016 due to an increase in burglaries.

Internal security threats are also addressed through a Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG) which involves staff seconded from NZSIS, the New Zealand Police, the New Zealand Defense Force, the GCSB, the New Zealand Customs Service and Maritime New Zealand. CTAG provides assessments on terrorist or criminal threats intended to create physical harm to New Zealand citizens or affect New Zealand interests at home or overseas, based on all information sources within the New Zealand government.

Citation:

New Zealand Police Crime Statistics for the fiscal year ending 30 June 2014: <http://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/crime-statistics-fiscal-year-ending-30-june-2014> (accessed October 13, 2014).

New Zealand Security Intelligence Service: <http://www.security.govt.nz/our-work/protection-from-terrorism/> (accessed November 30, 2014).

NZ Intelligence and Security Bill 2016. New Zealand Parliament (<https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-digests/document/51PLLaw23781/new-zealand-intelligence-and-security-bill-2016-bills>) (accessed 13 September, 2016).

Official crime stats released today. 31 August, 2016 (<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/official-crime-stats-released-today-0>) (accessed 13 September, 2016).

Norway

Score 9

Norway is traditionally a safe country. The country's security is not seriously threatened by crime. For example, the number of homicides per capita is the third-

lowest in the world, and incarceration rates are also small. Police presence is rarely significant, and incidents of police activism are rare. The police continue to be predominantly unarmed. Prison sentences are relatively mild, and Norway has relied instead on long-term crime-prevention policies. Theft and petty crimes are relatively infrequent, although there has been some concern over increasing levels of narcotics- and gang-related crimes. There is a perception that knife- and gun-related crimes are increasing in frequency and brutality. In recent years, various reforms have sought to enhance cooperation between various police and intelligence units, both internally and with respect to cross-border cooperation.

In the aftermath of the 22 July 2011 terrorist assaults on the government compound in Oslo and the summer camp of the Labor Party youth organization, the police service was severely criticized for not having put necessary precautions in place. This revealed shortcomings in police organization and logistics, including a low capacity for planning and implementation within the central police directorate. Notable improvements have since been made, including efforts to make better use of resources by requiring the police and military to coordinate their resources allocated for anti-terrorism measures and situations requiring special forces.

Slovenia

Score 9

Actual and perceived security risks in Slovenia are very low. Trust in the police is higher than in other East-Central European countries and comparable to EU member states with longer democratic traditions. Slovenia's accession to the Schengen group in December 2007 has resulted in a substantial professionalization of the Slovenian police force and border control. However, the effectiveness of the police force has suffered from underfunding. A six-month police strike that ended in June 2016 brought substantial increases in wages as well as a commitment by the government to increase future spending on basic police equipment.

Citation:
European Commission (2016): Standard Eurobarometer 85. Brussels
(<http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/STANDARD/surveyKy/2130>).

Overseas Security Advisory Council (2016): Crime and Safety Report Slovenia 2016. Washington, D.C. (www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=19676).

South Korea

Score 9

Police statistics show a small increase in both violent crime and street crimes over the last few years, but the general sense of security remains high. Petty crimes such as theft or pick-pocketing are much less common than in almost any other OECD country. The rate of violent crimes such as homicide is one of the lowest in the

world: In 2014, it stood at 0.7 cases per 100,000 people (according to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime statistics). There is no known terrorist activity in South Korea. However, the spread of financial scams (“phishing”) and cyber-crime, whose perpetrators take advantage of South Korea’s excellent broadband infrastructure and lax online-security measures, is a major concern that has not yet been effectively addressed. The lax enforcement of traffic laws remains another issue, as South Korea has the second highest ratio of road fatalities among OECD countries, with 14.1 deaths per 100,000. Every year 6,800 people die in road-traffic accidents. Respect for and trust in the police is generally low. While an earthquake in Gyeongju in September 2016 resulted in no casualties, it reinforced worries that the government has failed to improve its disaster- and accident-response policies since the Sewol Ferry catastrophe in 2014.

Citation:

OECD, OECD Factbook 2009

WHO, Global Health Observatory Data Repository, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.51310>

Switzerland

Score 9

Switzerland has improved its internal security through its integration into the European Schengen/Dublin regime. However, the country’s participation remains domestically controversial, as right-wing populist actors have accused center-left politicians of cooperating in an inefficient European security network.

With the de-facto break-down of the Schengen and Dublin rules in 2015, Switzerland resorted to more systematic controls at its borders. Having already had a comparatively high asylum seekers-to-population ratio before the refugee crisis of 2015 and 2016, Switzerland was largely spared from the dramatic refugee influx observed in Germany, Denmark and Hungary.

Internal security policy has developed as a collaborative policy field, in which various international and national governmental actors interact with private organizations. Given the country’s comparatively low crime rates, and the public confidence shown in the police and the justice system, internal security policy can be deemed a success.

On a general note, safe living conditions are strongly supported politically even if this entails substantial costs. For example, in 2016 three popular referenda were approved related to security: a decision on an additional tunnel across the Alps (Gotthard) increasing road safety at the cost of the environment, a decision on the competences of the intelligence service related to combating terrorism at the cost of individual privacy rights, and a decision on a long-term nuclear power phase out at the cost of the environment. There are, however, limitations to the quest for safety: on a decision to expel criminals of foreign origin (adopted in 2010), voters supported an alternative in 2016 that respects international law and human rights. Hence, safety

is not desired at all costs. Nonetheless, safe living conditions are an important motivator of political behavior among citizens.

Australia

Score 8

Internal security is largely the responsibility of the states and there is correspondingly some variation in policies and outcomes across the states. While crime is widely regarded as a significant economic and social problem, in most states crime rates are in fact relatively low. Coordination between various policing, enforcement and intelligence-gathering authorities is generally satisfactory.

. Prior to the 2014 Sydney hostage crisis, Australians were affected by terrorism abroad, but not at home. There had been several failed plots involving Islamic extremists, most notably an attempt to bomb a major sporting event and an attempt to storm a military base with automatic weapons. All resulted in long prison sentences for the defendants.

Responsibility for internal security rests with the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Security Intelligence Organization; the latter has no powers of arrest and relies on the police for support. Both rely on the criminal law for prosecutions, as well as on the Anti-Terrorism Act 2005. International organized crime that is not terrorism-related is investigated by the Australian Crime Commission.

In 2015, the coalition government introduced several measures aimed at countering terrorism and improving national security more generally. Most significant was the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Act 2015, allowing increased surveillance of electronic communications and imposing requirements on Internet service providers to retain data for minimum periods. The Act was opposed by groups concerned that it unduly infringes on civil liberties, as well as by telecommunications providers, who argued it would impose substantial costs on them. In 2016, the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) was passed, which grants the government explicit powers to revoke Australian citizenship of dual citizens convicted of engaging in terrorist-related activities.

Citation:

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/martin-place-cafe-siege-overreaction-from-fear-is-a-measure-of-a-terrorists-success-20141215-127rih.html>

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/nsw-crime-statistics-12-major-crime-types-fall-to-their-lowest-in-20-years-20160905-gr921b.html>

Austria

Score 8 Internal security is comparatively well protected in Austria. The crime rate is volatile, rising in some areas such as criminal assaults, while falling in others such as break-ins and car thefts. Internet crime is an increasingly significant problem, and the Austrian police forces are seeking to counteract it through the creation of special task forces. The incidence of economic fraud is also rising due to the growing share of transactions over the Internet.

Police-force budgets and personnel counts have risen over time, an indicator that the police are viewed as the appropriate instrument to provide internal security.

The open borders guaranteed by the European Union and the Schengen agreement have made it easier for organized crime to cross borders, leading some to criticize Austria's EU membership status. And although some parties (e.g., the FPÖ) do so for political purposes, the data shows that, despite recent increases concerning burglaries and car theft, there is no significant increase in crime.

Unfortunately, these facts are not depicted in the way the situation is presented in the Austrian tabloid press, which sometimes suggests (also for political reasons) that Austria has become a very insecure country.

Citation:
Stats from the interior ministry:
http://www.bmi.gv.at/cms/BK/publikationen/krim_statistik/2013/2732014_KrimStat_2013_Broschuere.pdf

Canada

Score 8 Canada's internal security policy has been quite effective in protecting citizens against security risks. Canada has experienced no terror attacks mounted from outside the country, which suggests that the Canadian intelligence services are doing excellent work. However, two separate attacks by native Canadians in 2014, resulting in the deaths of two soldiers, have raised concerns about police forces' ability to prevent terrorist attacks and the security measures in place at federal and provincial legislatures. Following the incidents, the government announced plans to introduce new anti-terror measures and expand the powers of Canada's spy agency.

Crime rates in Canada are low from an international perspective and continue to fall. Canadians in general have a high degree of confidence and trust in the police. However, this is not true to the same extent within the aboriginal community. A report released by the RCMP (2014) stated that between 1980 and 2013, 1,181 aboriginal women were reported murdered or missing. The U.N. Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of Canada previously expressed concerns about violence against indigenous women and girls and Canada's perceived failure to

address the problem. This year, the Trudeau government acted on a critical campaign promise and launched the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in an effort to uncover the reason(s) for this violence.

In 2014 and 2015, Canada introduced a number of bills to bolster security and the power of agencies (notably Bill C-44 and Bill C-51). The new laws increase the powers of Canada's spy agency (the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, CSIS) to share information and operate internationally, criminalize the promotion of terrorism, and provide the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) with new powers of preventative arrest.

Citation:

UN Human Rights Council (2013). Universal Periodic Review: Canada. Report available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/CASession16.aspx>

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (2014). Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview. Report available at <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/missing-and-murdered-aboriginal-women-national-operational-overview>

Denmark

Score 8

The security forces and police are responsible for internal security (falling under the Ministry of Justice). Cooperation between the police and defense intelligence services was increased after 9/11. International cooperation has also increased among Western allies.

Denmark is not a violent society. The homicide rate is low and Danes normally trust the police. However, burglaries are not uncommon and crimes related to drug use do occur. Terrorist events at home and abroad have increased tensions. In the June 2011 Eurobarometer, 56% of Danes said terrorism was the most important challenge to the security of Danish citizens at the moment (the EU average was 25%). Thirty percent of Danes said the biggest challenge was the financial crisis (the EU average was 33%).

Denmark has opted out of the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) cooperation within the EU (since 1993). In December 2015, there was a referendum on the Danish opt-out. The proposal called for Denmark to adopt an opt-in model, implying that the country would take part in 22 EU legislative directives and regulations concerning criminal law and police cooperation as well as civil, family, and commercial law. Denmark would still not take part in 10 other legislative directives and regulations concerning asylum and immigration. Voters turned this proposal down. There remain, however, ongoing discussions to formulate a new Danish policy for possible participation in various forms of cooperation (e.g., Europol). In autumn 2016, some politicians, especially from the Social Liberal Party, have called for a new referendum on Denmark's participation in Europol which will end in May 2017. The government is trying to negotiate a special Europol agreement with the Commission,

but the latter has not been very forthcoming, possibly in part due to the greater challenge of Brexit. The Danish government has not decided in favor of a new referendum, maybe partly because of the important negotiations about the 2026 Plan.

Following the great influx of refugees and asylum-seekers in 2015 the government reintroduced border control. Opinion polls in September 2015 showed that about 60% of the Danes supported such step. In an opinion poll in January 2015, 63% of the Danes supported Denmark joining a common EU agreement on the distribution of refugees. The question of continuing national border control is under discussion, especially because of the costs for commuters between Copenhagen and Sweden.

In an opinion poll in November 2015, 27% answered very likely and 54% answered likely on the possibility that a terror attack will occur in the next few years. The same poll showed that an overwhelming majority thought that such attack was likely to be committed by a fundamentalist Islamic group.

Citation:

Murder plot against Danish cartoonist, http://jyllands-posten.dk/uknews/EC_E3923645/murder-plot-against-danish-cartoonist/ (accessed 18 April 2013)

DIIS, "Opinion Polls," http://en.diis.dk/files/publications/Books2014/DIIS2014_yearbook_forweb.pdf (accessed 18 October 2014).

DIIS, "Opinion Polls," http://pure.diis.dk/ws/files/563878/Yearbook_2016_Web.pdf (accessed 22 October 2016).

"Klart flertal for at afskaffe retsforbeholdet," <http://www.altinget.dk/artikel/klart-flertal-for-at-afskaffe-retsforbeholdet> (accessed 3 November 2014).

"Berlingske mener: Et farvel til Europol har alvorlige konsekvenser," <http://www.b.dk/berlingske-mener/et-farvel-til-europol-har-alvorlige-konsekvenser> (Accessed 21 October 2016)

Iceland

Score 8

Iceland has always been a secure place to live, with relatively few assaults, burglaries, or other crimes. However, some changes have occurred since the 2008 economic collapse. The 2007-2009 government was undermined by a series of protests, which – though largely peaceful – did lead to clashes between protesters and riot police in early 2009. While these events led only to minor injuries and some 20 arrests, they were the first serious riots since March 1949's protests against a parliamentary decision to bring Iceland into NATO. The main policing priority has been Iceland's internal security. The police force has long suffered from a manpower shortage, exacerbated by low pay.

The incidence of drug-smuggling has been on the rise for several years. This trend reflects a related increase in the prevalence of violent attacks by individuals under the influence of alcohol or other drugs in Reykjavik, especially on weekends.

Luxembourg

Score 8 Luxembourg ranked 19 out of 221 cities worldwide in both the 2015 and 2016 Mercer Quality of Living Survey, while the capital was also judged to be the safest destination for international assignments. A further 100 police officers will be recruited in 2017 to enhance public security and regain trust. In addition, 51 police stations will be merged into a number of larger, more efficient units as part of an ongoing police reform program.

Citation:

Rapport d'activité 2015 de la police grand ducale. Le gouvernement du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, 2016. www.police.public.lu/fr/publications/statistiques-2015/rapport-activite-2015.pdf. Accessed 21 Feb. 2017.

Regards 08: sur l'évaluation du travail de la police. Statec, 2014. www.statistiques.public.lu/catalogue-publications/regards/2014/PDF-08-2014.pdf. Accessed 21 Feb. 2017.

Remesch, Steve. "Die Sicherheitskräfte ziehen Bilanz: Drogenbekämpfung im Blickpunkt." Luxemburger Wort, 15 Apr. 2016. www.wort.lu/de/lokales/die-sicherheitskraefte-ziehen-bilanz-drogenbekaempfung-im-blickpunkt-57113b9c1bea9dff8fa76347. Accessed 21 Feb. 2017.

"STATEC report: 1 in 3 residents expects to be burgled." Luxemburger Wort, 11 Sept. 2014. www.wort.lu/en/luxembourg/statec-report-1-in-3-residents-expects-to-be-burgled-54118172b9b3988708062fad. Accessed 21 Feb. 2017.

Portugal

Score 8 Portugal is signatory to and participant in all relevant Europe-wide programs regarding public security. In addition, Portugal has created a General Secretariat for the Internal Security System, which reports to the prime minister via the minister for internal administration.

The trend identified in the previous report continued during the review period. While there was a small increase in overall reported crime of 1.3% in 2015 relative to 2014, Portugal remains a relatively safe country in international terms. Furthermore, Portugal has not experienced a terrorist attack, as witnessed in Belgium, France, Germany, Norway, Turkey. Whether this is due to effective intelligence gathering and policing is unclear.

This pattern is consistent with that found in surveys. In the Eurobarometer survey on the issue of internal security, published in November 2011, Portuguese respondents indicated a lower degree of concern about terrorism, petty crime, cybercrime and religious extremism than the EU average. Eurobarometer survey for 2015 indicates that the proportion of respondents that believed terrorism was a challenge to national security had increased to 54%, though this remains far below the EU average of 65% of respondents.

Citation:

Special Eurobarometer 371, “Internal Security. European Commission, Brussels. Available at http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

Special Eurobarometer 432 ” Europeans’ Attitudes Towards Security,” European Commission April 2015. Available at

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

Sistema de Segurança Interna, “Relatório Anual de Segurança Interna 2015,” available online at: [http://www.ansr.pt/InstrumentosDeGestao/Documents/Relat%C3%B3rio%20Anual%20de%20Seguran%C3%A7a%20Interna%20\(RASI\)/RASI%202015.pdf](http://www.ansr.pt/InstrumentosDeGestao/Documents/Relat%C3%B3rio%20Anual%20de%20Seguran%C3%A7a%20Interna%20(RASI)/RASI%202015.pdf)

Spain

Score 8

In terms of homicides, Spain is the safest country among Western nations with more than 3 million inhabitants. Compared with other OECD and European countries, Spain performs quite satisfactorily in protecting citizens against security risks and public confidence in the police force is high. The official data shows that violent crimes rate is one of the lowest in the world, although the figures are somewhat higher for assaults or muggings.

Considering the high unemployment and budgetary cuts on law and order policies, the overall situation can be considered quite successful. It is precisely this effectiveness that made the recent law on public safety (Organic Law 4/2015 “de protección de la seguridad ciudadana”) so controversial. In the eyes of its critics, the new regulation has much more to do with trying to repress political protest (see “Civil Rights” and “Political Liberties”) than with increasing the protection of citizens. Nonetheless, the government of Spain and its citizens are now more concerned that they are a principal target of Islamic extremism, though the Spanish intelligence and police communities have demonstrated their effectiveness in fighting this risk in recent years.

Citation:

Spain: Reject Flawed Public Security Bill <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/03/09/spain-reject-flawed-public-security-bill>

SIDIR 2016

http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/portal/web/rielcano_es/contenido?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/elcano/elcano_es/zonas_es/gonzalez-enriquez-martinez-zomera-sistema-indicadores-distancia-imagen-realidad-sidir-caso-espanol-3ed-2016

United Kingdom

Score 8

Objectively speaking, citizens of the United Kingdom have enjoyed improved security over the last 15 years as the crime rate has dropped significantly and consistently (although it continues to be relatively high in absolute terms when compared to other OECD countries). This is not reflected, however, in increased subjective perception of security, since British citizens (probably influenced by

media reporting) perceive crime to be on the rise. The issue thus remains in the public spotlight, and cuts in the budgets of the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice – in line with overall budget cuts to fight the deficit – have therefore been politically contentious. The most recent figures do, nevertheless, suggest a further fall in crime, although questions have been raised about whether “new” crimes like cybercrime are being adequately recorded. Moreover, even in higher crime areas, there are few signs that citizens consider the environment to be unsafe.

The coalition government abolished some of the harsh counter-terrorism laws introduced by earlier Labour governments in an attempt to correct the balance in favor of civil rights. A new National Crime Agency started work in the autumn of 2013 as a central body for crime fighting. Certain high-profile revelations of police malpractice, including the recently exposed falsification of records in the Hillsborough football disaster of 1989, have led to disquiet about police behavior, but have not conspicuously undermined confidence.

The 2015 Conservative government – and its Home Secretary Theresa May – reformed the police disciplinary and complaint system to improve trust between citizens and the police. Furthermore, it has made the Police Federation subject to the Freedom of Information Act to improve transparency in the police force.

There is continuing concern about terrorist threats, accentuated by the renewed difficulties in the Middle East and the evidence of the involvement of UK-born jihadis. There is concern about the threat posed by returning fighters from the Middle East, which has led to an increase in resources for the security services. There are occasional briefings from these services about “plots disrupted.”

Belgium

Score 7

Belgium is generally a safe country, yet violence does occur and the country’s crime rate is higher than in neighboring countries. Also, Belgium has disproportionately attracted Islamist terror networks, which are producing a new type of threat that the country has found difficult to successfully cope with.

Regarding low-level criminality, self-reported rates of victimization are slightly above the OECD average, in part due to above-average bullying that has not receive sufficient policy attention. Underfunded and overcrowded prisons are another source of the problem, even though successive recent governments have invested in new prison facilities. The court system remains slow (due to a huge backlog) and is often perceived as lenient. This helps maintain a feeling of impunity for misdemeanor offenders. Yet, the country’s relative social stability, neocorporatist arrangements and limited levels of income inequality have largely insulated it from mass demonstrations or riots of the kind sometimes observed in France.

Citation:

OECD 2015. Better life initiative. How is life in Belgium? October 2015. <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/countries/belgium/>

Chile

Score 7

Internal security policy is quite effective. While organized crime is not apparent to the average citizen, there are some disturbing trends: selective acts of terrorism (or acts classified as terrorism) based on ethnic or political grounds, and a slightly rising incidence of drug trafficking (and related crimes). Homicide rates in Chile are among Latin America's lowest. Common crime rates have not shown any significant changes since 2012. Still, public perceptions of criminality tend to overestimate the statistical reality. According to a poll released in August 2016 by the Chilean polling agency Centro de Estudios Públicos, insecurity remains the overriding public concern (44%), ahead of economic development (32%) and health care (30%), despite the fact that the Nueva Mayoría Government presented a positive balance for the first half of 2016 with a 5.1% fall in serious crime compared with the same period a year before.

Private security services are widespread in the wealthier urban areas, especially in Santiago. Chile has an extremely high share of prisoners among the younger population in particular. Prevention measures are not well developed. The last two governments each launched anti-crime programs focusing more on detection and repression than on prevention. These had very mixed results. Crime-control programs such as the Plan Cuadrante and the marked increase in the numbers of police officers have significantly reduced crime rates. Penal-code reforms and their implementation over the last eight years have also significantly raised the efficiency of crime detection and criminal prosecution. In the government's 2017 state budget, security is one of the top three budgetary priorities (along with education and health).

Citation:

http://www.ine.cl/canales/chile_estadistico/encuestas_seguridadciudadana/victimizacion2013/presentacion_x_encuesta_nacional_seguridad_ciudadana.pdf

UNODC report 2013:

http://www.unodc.org/documents/gsh/pdfs/2014_GLOBAL_HOMICIDE_BOOK_web.pdf

On insecurity as the chief public concern: http://www.latinnews.com/component/k2/item/70237.html?period=2016&archive=26&Itemid=6&cat_id=804376:chile-seeking-to-address-the-chief-public-concern&Itemid=6

Cyprus

Score 7

Cyprus is generally considered a safe environment. As an island, it has developed adequate monitoring of the coast and entry points. Its only relatively vulnerable points are the line dividing the government-controlled areas and the Turkish-occupied north, as well as the portions of the British bases that abut the north.

Cyprus is not part of the Schengen area. A low incidence of serious crime, assaults and homicides place it in a very good position compared to other EU countries and the world more generally. Burglaries and robberies are by far the most common crimes, with a relatively stable occurrence. Law enforcement efforts targeting minor wrongdoings such as driving offenses or graffiti are quite poor. Illegal drug activity is comparatively minimal overall, but an increase in the amount of illegal drugs confiscated at entry points has been evident.

Citation:

1. Police force per 100,000, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_police_officers
2. Crime and Safety report 2015, OSAC (US), <https://www.osac.gov/Pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=16921>
3. Feeling of economic and physical safety, Eurostat, 2015 (data 2013), http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Quality_of_life_in_Europe_-_facts_and_views_-_economic_and_physical_safety

Czech Republic

Score 7

Confidence in the police is below the OECD average, but 73% of Czech citizens are satisfied with the performance of the police and feel secure. Crime figures are unremarkable. However, there are increasing regional differences as well as tension in regions with a concentration of marginalized groups. Partly as a result of anti-Muslim campaigning, fears of terrorist attacks have grown recently. Protection against security risks is favored by well-functioning, cross-border cooperation. Czech police officers cooperate with other police officers from across the European Union to protect the borders of countries on major migration routes.

Estonia

Score 7

Despite steady improvement, Estonia still ranks at the bottom of the OECD's homicide and violence statistics. One of the major causes of high crime rates is alcohol and drug consumption that often leads to violent behavior at home or in other private settings. This makes crime prevention harder and calls for better cooperation between social workers and the police.

The police forces enjoy high levels of public trust, a fact that helps to some extent compensate for the scarcity of human and material resources in the field. The Internal Security Development Plan 2015-2020 set objectives to improve efficient use of state resources and broaden cooperation with volunteers. Yet, a 2016 report on the financial sustainability of the rescue forces states that judging by current budget levels, citizen security cannot be guaranteed at an adequate level. An estimated 148.7 million euro in additional funding is needed in the coming 10-year period.

Citation:

- Ministry of Interior (2016) Päästeameti finantseerimise mõju tõhusa päästevõimekuse tagamisele, sealhulgas organisatsiooni jätkusuutlikkusele.
https://www.siseministerium.ee/sites/default/files/dokumendid/Uuringud/Paastetood/2016_paasteameti_jatkusuutlikkuse_aruanne.pdf (accessed 04.11.2016)

Germany

Score 7

In general, residents of Germany are well protected against security risks such as crime or terrorism. Crime rates had been declining for years, but are now increasing. Compared to 2013 and 2014, in 2015 witnessed an obvious increase. A total of 6,330,000 crimes were reported in 2015, a 4% increase over 2014.

The influx of nearly 900,000 refugees in 2015 fostered a heated discussion about a potential rise in crime. However, a special survey of the Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt) made clear that refugees and asylum seekers do not display any increased propensity toward criminality compared to German citizens. On the contrary, crime rates of immigrants declined about 18% compared to 2015. Offences that do occur mostly take place between the immigrants themselves (resulting from ethnic or religious tensions) and often in welcome centers and other institutions for incoming migrants.

Notwithstanding, during the 2015 New Year's Eve celebrations in Cologne and other German cities, hundreds of sexual assaults, at least five rapes, and numerous thefts were reported. Victims and police officers reported that the perpetrators had been men mostly of Arab and/or North African origin. The attacks triggered a heated debate that often was accompanied by strong prejudices against migrants and foreigners. The attacks also lead to an increase of negative attitudes toward immigration into Germany and triggered more violent attacks from right-wing movements against immigrants and foreigners.

In addition, several terrorist attacks by Islamist extremists over the course of 2016 as well as planned attacks prevented by the police clearly indicate a significant increase in the risk of terrorist attacks. The group of Islamist extremists is quickly growing in number, attracting support principally among younger German Muslims, but also among some refugees.

Also, extremist activities by right-wing and left-wing groups and organizations have increased sharply. Politically motivated violence rose to about 40,000 incidents, a sharp 34% rise in right-wing and 18% in left-wing attacks. The number of xenophobic attacks on accommodations for asylum seekers increased dramatically at the end of 2015 (472 attacks in the last calendar quarter), but decreased slightly in the first quarter of 2016 (345).

Citation:

<http://www.zeit.de/gesellschaft/zeitgeschehen/2016-06/bundeskriminalamt-statistik-straftaten-asylbewerber>

<https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/straftaten-auslaender-erklaerung-101.html>

http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/ExterneLinks/DE/01-Sicherheit/Kriminalitaet/bka_pks.html?nn=3356948

http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Broschueren/2015/pks-2014.pdf;jsessionid=BB52FF2F07734E52EFCFEA67A076B447.2_cid364?__blob=publicationFile

Die Zeit (2015): <http://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2015-11/bundeskriminalamt-fluechtlinge-deutsche-straftaten-vergleich>

Ireland

Score 7

Overall, Irish crime rates are relatively low by international standards. However, property crime rates have risen in the last few years and over the past decade there has been an increase in “gangland” crime, including murders involving firearms. The low detection and conviction rates for these crimes are disturbing.

The main police force remains unarmed and, despite a recent fatal shooting of an on-duty police officer, there is no widespread clamor to arm the force. It enjoys a good relationship with the majority of the population, although tensions exist in certain areas and with certain social groups.

Cross-border policing cooperation between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland remains good, although the existence of a long land border is an inherent obstacle to effective law enforcement. It is widely acknowledged that paramilitary crime and racketeering are unacceptably high in the Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland border areas.

Italy

Score 7

With the exception of some regions of southern Italy where mafia-type organized crime can have a serious impact on the security of certain sectors of the population (for instance entrepreneurs and shop owners) internal security is sufficiently guaranteed. Homicide levels have generally declined and are among the lowest in Europe. Theft and robbery rates have significantly increased probably as a consequence of economic instability and rising unemployment. The public confidence in the security forces is generally fairly high. The segmentation of security forces (Carabinieri, Polizia di Stato, Guardia di Finanza, Polizia Municipale) might result in some inefficiencies and accountability issues although there was a small reform incorporating the Corpo Forestale into the Carabinieri. The security forces are not always able to efficiently maintain law and order, and security in major suburban areas. Italian security agencies have to date been successful in preventing terrorist attacks.

Lithuania

Score 7

Lithuania’s internal security has improved in recent years, in part thanks to Lithuania’s accession to the European Union in 2004 and to the Schengen zone in 2007. These relationships improved police cooperation with the country’s EU peers and allowed the public security infrastructure, information systems and staff skills to

be upgraded. Crime rates fell during the 2005 – 2007 period, but this trend was reversed beginning in 2008, coinciding with the onset of the economic crisis. A total of 84,715 crimes were registered in 2013, which constitutes a 5.6% decrease in the crime rate in 2005. However, the year's crime rate per 100,000 people (2,866) was the highest in the 2005 – 2013 period due to the country's decreasing total population. The country has a high number of homicides by EU standards. In the 2011 Eurobarometer survey, 58% of respondents in Lithuania either disagreed or totally disagreed with the statement that their country was doing enough to fight organized crime, compared to an EU-27 average of 42%. However, in recent years public trust in the police has increased. In November 2016, a record high 71% of respondents in Lithuania expressed confidence in the police, according to a Baltic survey. In its 2016 to 2017 report, the World Economic Forum ranked Lithuania 46 out of 138 countries for the costs to business of crime and violence, and 42 for the costs to business of organized crime.

State funding for internal-security purposes remains limited; though it gradually increased between 2004 and 2008, government expenditure for public-safety purposes dropped from 2.4% of GDP in 2008 to 2.1% in 2011. Observers say that motivation, competence and stability within the police force (and other internal-security organizations) are among the most pressing challenges to improving public safety. According to the 2011 Eurobarometer report, 42% of Lithuanians felt corruption to be an issue very important to citizens' security, while just 5% felt the same about terrorism threats, and 2% for civil wars/wars. The annual report of the Lithuanian Security Department has recently highlighted threats linked to the activities of external intelligence services from neighboring non-NATO countries. The country has reconsidered its internal-security policies due to increasing threats associated with Russia's intervention in Ukraine. A new long-term Public Security Development Program for 2015 – 2025, which aims at increasing public safety in the country, was adopted by the parliament in May 2015. In addition, in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine and increase in its Baltic Sea Region military exercises, Lithuania reintroduced compulsory military conscriptions in 2015. The previous year, parliamentary parties committed to increasing defense expenditures to reach 2% of the country's GDP by 2020.

Citation:

The 2011 Eurobarometer reports is available at http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_371_fact_lt_en.pdf.

Netherlands

Score 7

Since 2010, opinion polling has shown that confidence in the police is consistently high and satisfaction regarding policy performance is fairly high (28% of those polled express that they are “very satisfied”). Research shows that this is independent of actual conduct and performance of police officers.

In 2015, the Dutch government spent €10 billion (down €3 billion from 2010) on public order and safety (police, fire protection, disaster protection, judicial and penitentiary system) – an amount that has been approximately stable since 2008. The Integral Safety Monitor for 2010 reported that the one in four people among the population aged 15 years and over claimed to have been the victim of commonly occurring crimes (such as vandalism, fraud or violence). In 2015, this had decreased to one in five (18%). The longer-term trend (2005 – 2014) shows a decrease in self-reported victimhood by one-third. However, less than 40% of all crimes committed are actually reported to the police; indeed, citizens likelihood of reporting crimes is decreasing. Cybercrime rates (hacking, internet harassment, commercial and identity fraud) continue to increase. The dissemination of illegal cryptographic software and phishing have become standard in the cybercriminal business model. While no exact data exists, experts estimated that in 2013, 12% of Netherlands residents older than 15 were victims of cybercrime; among the 15- to 25-year-old age cohort, this rate was estimated at 20%. In research commissioned by McAfee, the American Center for Strategic and International Studies estimated that cybercrime creates damage to the Dutch economy totaling approximately €8.8 billion per year (or 1.5% of GDP). Recent studies conclude that the Dutch police lack the technical expertise to effectively tackle cybercrime.

Since 2008, the feeling of vulnerability among the public is slightly decreasing; however, younger women in particular report feeling feelings of vulnerability and fear on a regular basis. Per case prosecution costs have declined, while victim-support expenses have gone up considerably. Officially reported crime has declined. Moreover, since 2007, an average of one in four reported crimes has led to the identification and/or arrest of perpetrators.

Since 2011, the Dutch government has been implementing an EU-coordinated National Cybersecurity Strategy that prioritizes prevention over detection. Regarding terrorism threats, the intelligence services (Nationale Coördinator Terrorismebestrijding, established 2004) appear able to prevent attacks. Fighting terrorism, extremism and anticipating political radicalization and transboundary criminality have increased in priority. The policies of the present government focus on cost reduction and the centralization of the previously strictly municipality- and region-based police, judicial and penitentiary systems. Recent reports signal serious problems in implementing these reforms, with policy officers claiming severe loss of operational capacity. A scandal about lavish spending by the national Policy Works Council has drawn parliamentary attention to possible mismanagement by the former national head of policy and even a former Minister of Safety and Justice. All this against the background of profound discontent and unrest inside the Ministry of Justice and Safety. Judges and other legal personnel have voiced public complaints about the “managerialization” of the judicial process and the resulting overburdening workload for judges, leading to “sloppy” trials and verdicts. The government intends to save €5 million in 2018 by cutting legal assistance to (poor) citizens. Government policy is attempting to relieve part of the burden on the judicial system

by introducing intermediation procedures. Despite frequently occurring large fires in industrial complexes, spending on fire and disaster protection remains unaltered.

The Dutch Safety Board recently reported that the Dutch government had clearly ignored and under-prioritized earthquakes, and its risk to housing and quality of life of citizens in the Province of Groningen, in favor of the economic benefits of gas production. It has also warned of the risk from nuclear power stations and continued transportation of dangerous material by train on routes to busy city centers.

The overall picture from the safety and security, and judicial institutions of the Dutch government is one of increasing stress and challenge.

Citation:

L. van der Veer et al., *Vertrouwen in de politie: trends en verklaringen*, Politie en Wetenschap, Apeldoorn, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, 2013

Criminaliteit en rechtshandhaving in 2014. Ontwikkelingen en samenhangen, WODC en CBS, Raad voor de Rechtspraak, 2015

Cybersecuritybeeld Nederland CSBN 2015, Ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie (rijksoverheid.nl)

Evaluatierapport van de zevende wederzijdse evaluatie “De praktische uitvoering en toepassing van het Europese beleid inzake preventie en bestrijding cybercriminaliteit”. Rapport Nederland, Raad van de Europese Unie, Brussel, 15 April 2015 (zoek.officiële bekendmakingen.nl, consulted 26 October 2015)

Veiligheidsmonitor, 2016 (veiligheidsmonitor.nl, consulted 7 November 2016)

Poland

Score 7

Crime figures in Poland have fallen and have been relatively low for some time. Trust in the police has suffered from the resignation of the head of police, Zbigniew Maj, who faced a corruption investigation in April 2016. The PiS government, most notably Minister of Defense Antoni Macierewicz has been criticized for undermining the public’s feeling of security by exaggerating the risk of terrorist attacks. The effectiveness of the new Anti-Terror Law, introduced in June 2016, has been contested. The Constitutional Court and the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe have criticized the extended options for telephone and internet surveillance without a court order. Another critique is the weak oversight of secret services. The parliamentary committee for control was reduced from nine to seven members and the chair does not alternate any longer between government and opposition.

Slovakia

Score 7

Internal security has been a major issue in Slovakia since the onset of the EU refugee crisis. Prime Minister Fico has pursued a double-track strategy on this issue. For one, he has helped fuel fears by issuing a series of negative public statements regarding migrants. For another, the Fico government has sought to demonstrate its commitment to battling crime and terrorism by approving fast-track anti-terrorism

legislation that made the prolonged detention of suspected terrorists possible. In addition, the Fico government has established a special police unit of 300 officers in charge of protecting of the Schengen Area's external borders and increased public spending on domestic security and public order, which, as a percentage of GDP, is now the highest in the EU. Despite such high levels of spending, Slovakia scores poorly on the OECD Personal Safety Statistics for “feeling safe when walking alone at night” and with respect to safety in general.

Citation:

OECD, Better Life Index (<http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/topics/safety/>).

Sweden

Score 7

The crime rate in Sweden is slightly higher than it is in comparable countries. Assessing the effectiveness of the internal security police is a complex undertaking. Sweden has experienced substantial problems with organized crime for a long time. Despite increased efforts to address this problem during the period of review, organized and/or gang-related crime shows no sign of waning, rather the opposite. Many media accounts of homicides and assaults relate these incidents to rivalry among competing organizations.

In terms of solving and preventing crime, there has been extensive debate about police effectiveness. Studies suggest that the police do not use their resources effectively and that only 2% of their working time is spent on actual crime prevention or resolution.

Both the red-green government and the opposition argue that recruiting more police officers is an important part of the response to this situation. There is also a growing understanding that some percentage of rising crime levels in metropolitan areas reflect a failure of integration programs.

An additional problem is related to the emphasis on performance measurement and management which, critics argue, has led the police to focus on high performance scores rather than crime prevention. Pre-emptive police work which may observers argued is the best way to prevent crime does not show up in performance measures. Also, given the performance targets some aspects of police work such as checking automobile drivers' sobriety is conducted with almost more attention to getting the numbers in than actually bringing criminals to court.

The percentage of “smaller” crimes, particularly petty crimes such as theft and burglary that are solved is still lower than deemed acceptable by many Swedish citizens.

Citation:

Holgerson, S. and J. Knutsson (2012), Vad gör egentligen polisen? (Institutionen för ekonomisk och industriell utveckling. LIU-IEI-Research Report 12/0004. Linköping: Linköpings Universitet).

France

Score 6

Although the police maintains a reputation of being efficient (sometimes too efficient, as the institution is granted significant powers and discretion vis-à-vis the citizenry), concerns over internal security are high. Attention has focused on repeated outbreaks of urban violence in the suburbs or other areas. Following a rising level of petty crime and several terrorist attacks on French territory and abroad, citizens have been more and more vocal about the need to be better protected by enforcing “law and order” measures. There is a growing feeling of insecurity related to the rise of robbery both in cities and - this is a new phenomenon - in the countryside. Drug trafficking and violence are such in some neighborhoods of large cities that they are seen as off-limits (e.g., 28 drug trafficking-related murders occurred in Marseilles from January to October 2016). There is a clear relationship between the economic and social crisis and this increasing sense of insecurity. This situation has also had a decisive impact on protest votes in favor of the extreme-right party, the National Front.

Nonetheless, domestic security policy is able on the whole to protect citizens; some problems, such as those related to urban violence, are often linked to social problems and have to be managed by actions beyond security policy.

The terrorist attacks of 13 November 2015 have elevated the topic of security to the top of the political agenda, triggering real concerns as well as political polemics driven by the populist and extreme right. The government has reacted to this with new security measures, issuing a temporary state of emergency and giving more powers to the executive and police to prevent and fight terrorist acts. The “state of emergency,” which gives extraordinary powers of investigation to the police, was further extended until July 2017 after the 14 July 2016 attack in Nice (86 people dead, 434 injured). In spite of this, the government faces protests from police forces frustrated by increasing demonstrations and social violence and by what they consider a too-lenient attitude by the judiciary.

Greece

Score 6

As data on homicides and thefts show, Greece, despite suffering from a severe economic crisis, is one of the safest OECD countries. Moreover, preliminary data from 2015 show that several crimes such as residential burglaries, thefts and rapes continue to be low relative to the population, and even decreasing.

However, in the wake of the crisis, many people consider one or two areas in central Athens as “no go zones”, not because of high criminality but because of frequent political events, some of which turn have turned violent. Despite that, efforts to improve safety have been made since 2012.

However, Greeks do not trust the police as much as one would expect in a country where, comparatively speaking, homicides and other violent crimes are rare. Distrust toward the police may be explained by the fact that the police had a major role in constraining anti-austerity protests throughout the period of the economic crisis, i.e., since 2010 and also by the fact that appointments at the top ranks of the Greek police are made through political criteria, namely affiliation with the governing party.

There is a general threat from terrorism and acts of political violence. In the last years there have been a few attacks involving explosives and automatic weapons against Greek institutions, shopping malls, media interests, diplomatic targets and the police - with no reported injuries.

Citation:

Data on homicides and thefts, as well as trust toward police, is drawn on the SGI statistical data available on this platform.

Israel

Score 6

The Ministry of Public Security (MPS) manages internal security in conjunction with the armed forces and other government agencies such as “Rachel” (emergency) and “Malal” (terrorism prevention). After changing its name (previously, the Ministry of the Police), the MPS broadened its scope, and is now in charge of crime prevention, the prison system, gun control, the prevention of terrorist acts, and fire prevention policies. Reforms aim to integrate the country’s dispersed agencies dealing with security issues and in 2013 the ministry reported some accomplishments. For example, the Firearm Licensing Department (2011), the Israel Fire and Rescue Services (2011) and the Israel Anti-Drug Authority have been successfully integrated into the ministry, improving coordination capabilities. In 2016, the government accepted an MPS recommendation to establish a national program to prevent cybercrime and internet violence against children (MA’OR).

A number of gun related murders and attacks in Israeli Arab cities in 2014 were followed by public outrage and protest, voicing public frustration over escalating violence and the poor security conditions in Israel’s periphery. A new surge of violence in 2015 and 2016, characterized by a series of street attacks on Jewish and Arab citizens attributed to nationalist and religious motivations, threaten the general perception of security.

Since Israel’s internal-security budget is divided between different agencies, and cannot be separated from the defense budget managed by the Ministry of Defense, it is hard to estimate the country’s overall internal-security expenditure. Although the Ministry of Public Security’s budget increased in recent years, it is at least partly the result of expanding the ministry’s responsibilities and not increased investment or policy implementation.

Citation:

Kubovich, Y., "98% of sexual harassment victims in Israel don't complain to police according to Gov't poll", 5.5.2015, Haartz:

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.654825>

"National violence index 2014", the Ministry of Public Security publication February 2014 (Hebrew).

"Safety: Better life index Israel," OECD.

<http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/countries/israel/>

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Malta

Score 6

Malta is generally considered a safe place to live. Crime rates have remained largely stable although from time to time in-fighting escalates between actors involved in drug trafficking and money laundering.

External security threats to the state have been largely absent, making it difficult to assess local readiness or an ability to protect citizens if such threats were to materialize. The U.S. Department of State highlights the fact that like all other European countries, Malta is vulnerable to transnational terrorist groups. This is particularly significant when one considers Malta's geographic location and open borders with other Schengen members. Nonetheless, 2016 data compiled by Numbeo ranked Malta 16th worldwide on its Safety Index. An international comparison shows that Malta is a relatively safe country having an average of 43 offences per 100 persons as against 102 for Finland.

Malta is affiliated with Interpol and is also party to several cross-border security cooperation efforts, particularly those coordinated by the European Union. Malta is also participating in Operation Triton to secure borders and rescue migrants in the central Mediterranean area. As Malta ensures the security of an external frontier of the European Union, it has received substantial assistance through the External Borders Fund. Through this fund, the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) have been able to obtain important resources for the enhancement of the existing border control system, which is primarily directed toward policing the island's maritime borders from irregular migration and drug smuggling. Moreover, an additional €2 million in EU funding has been earmarked for Malta for the programming period 2014-2020 through the Internal Security Fund and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

Malta's Secret Service is small and depends heavily on intelligence from foreign intelligence services. However, its Secret Service has improved its capability, as evidenced by the Secret Service's support in liberating Maltese hostages in Libya. Also its has been strengthened because of Malta's recent involvement as a place for international dialogue and the upcoming EU Presidency. Nonetheless, the current crisis in the Mediterranean remains a big challenge. The need to strengthen external borders and tighten visa regimes has led to the temporary suspension of Schengen in Malta until the beginning of 2016. The drafting of a long-term strategy to reform the

police force was ongoing in 2016, however, confidence in the force is generally low. In 2016, the police association has called for major changes to the Police Act.

Citation:

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<http://www.police.gov.mt/en-us/interpolmlt.aspx>

<http://frontex.europa.eu/news/frontex-expands-its-joint-operation-triton-udpbHP>

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On Parade Magazine October 2014, Armed Forces of Malta p.17

<https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/Information/Press%20Releases/Pages/PARLIAMENTARY-SECRETARY-FOR-EU-PRESIDENCY-2017-AND-EU-FUNDS,-IAN-BORG-ANNOUNCES-A-FURTHER-%E2%82%AC12,600-000-IN-EU-FUNDS-FOR-THE-P.aspx>

Times of Malta 09/04/2013 Malta Security Service Ignored Invitations for International Collaboration

Times of Malta 29/10/2015 Watch: Abducted Maltese man released in Libya, expresses relief

The Malta Independent 02/01/2016 Schengen rules are back in place, Home Affairs Ministry says; no threats made against Malta

Times of Malta 08/08/2016 Police facing a brain drain

Malta Today 24/08/2015 Online poll | Absolute majority mistrust Malta's Police Force

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20160830/local/malta-is-almost-the-best-place-in-the-world-for-foreigners.623559>

Crimemalta.com

Position paper regarding the Amendments to the police act

Romania

Score 6

Despite some high-profile cases in 2016, Romania's homicide and violent crime rates have remained relatively low. The dominant challenges to Romanian public safety are transnational and organized crime, as seen in the Black Cube firm spying case and in various arrests related to smuggling and human trafficking. Romania continues to be a willing participant in international police cooperation with European and regional partners, issuing 1,500 warnings related to European arrest warrants and transferring 520 individuals into foreign custody.

Bulgaria

Score 5

While Bulgaria does have a serious problem with organized crime and while violence against migrants has increased, normal citizens can live relatively safely and crime statistics have fallen in recent years. The strong feeling of personal insecurity revealed by various surveys relates more to economic insecurity than to fear of crime. While governments rhetorically declare Schengen accession a priority, progress with international cooperation in security matters has remained limited, as reflected in the repeated postponements of Bulgaria's admission to the Schengen Area. In 2016, the Borissov government made no attempt to revive the police force reforms that were blocked by trade unions in 2015.

Hungary

Score 5 In Hungary, regular crime is largely kept within normal limits. By European standards, Budapest is a rather safe capital city, and the number of registered crimes in the country are relatively low. However, the government's attempts to prevent atrocities from being perpetrated against Roma, Jews and homosexuals, as well as to protect opposition demonstrators, have remained rather half-hearted. It is telling that in September 2016 a State Secretariat in EMMI was created to prevent attacks on Christians following the government-hyped hysteria about the refugee crisis.

United States

Score 4 The United States invests massively in efforts to protect citizens against security risks such as crime and terrorism. In the years after 9/11, the United States built an extraordinarily large security establishment centered in the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency. In 2013 and 2014, the Snowden leaks revealed massive, largely unauthorized National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance of Americans' telephone and Internet communications. Although little evidence has been provided regarding the concrete achievements of this surveillance program, policymakers had not moved to impose major limitations on surveillance authority by November 2016. The US has suffered attacks from homegrown terrorists. In addition, security officials report that actors associated with the Russian government have hacked into computer systems of the Democratic Party, the Clinton campaign, and other political organizations.

The government has had less success dealing with two other kinds of violence. First, a number of large cities are plagued by homicides, primarily in inner city black and Latino neighborhoods. New Orleans, St. Louis, Baltimore, Detroit and Chicago all number among the world's 50 cities with the highest homicide rates. Second, there are repeated instances of individuals conducting large-scale violent attacks on civilians in public spaces, killing large numbers of people, often using semi-automatic weapons with large ammunition clips. Under pressure from the National Rifle Association and its mass membership, Congress has failed to pass legislation tightening weapon regulations, such as imposing background checks for the purchase of a gun or limiting the size of ammunition magazines.

In addition, the 2014 fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager by a police officer in a St. Louis suburb drew attention to a possibly growing phenomenon of excessive police violence, especially against African Americans. The Black Lives Matter protest movement gained momentum during 2015, highlighting the insecurity of racial minorities vulnerable to harassment or violence by local police departments. In parallel, a national focus on mass incarceration prompted Obama's Justice

Department and some state-level policymakers to reduce the quantity and length of prison sentences for nonviolent offenses. Law-enforcement sources have suggested that the additional scrutiny of police practices has inhibited police effectiveness and led to increases in crime in certain areas.

Turkey

Score 3

According to the OECD, in Turkey, 5.0% of respondents report having been victims of assault in 2014, which is higher than the OECD average of 3.9%. The survey indicates that 62% of respondents say they feel safe walking alone at night, which is lower than the OECD average of 69%. More recently, acts of terrorism carried out by domestic (PKK) and foreign (IS group) groups have become a troubling issue, raising considerable doubt about state authorities' capacity to effectively combat terrorist cells and groups. Bombings before and after the June 7 elections increased security and safety concerns, and since then, some 400 people have been killed in terrorist-related or other incidents associated with the escalation of violence in the southeast. Since the beginning of 2015, homicides and the murder of women (honor crimes) have also increased. By the end of October 2015, a total of 249 women were killed by men (i.e., a husband, lover or another man).

The General Directorate of Security was allocated an annual budget of €5.45 billion in 2014 and 71% of this budget was spent for personnel expenditures. About €1 billion was spent for public order and security as part of the functional budget. In 2015, the directorate's total budget reached €5.67 billion. Some €3.38 billion of this sum has been allocated in 2015 to the public order and security category. About 270,000 personnel are employed by the directorate, which means 360 police per 100,000 inhabitants. The Turkish National Police (TNP) collaborates extensively with domestic partners as well as international organizations such as INTERPOL, EUROPOL, SECI, AGIT, BM, CEPOL, and FRONTEX. Moreover, the TNP has introduced an e-government infrastructure in many divisions, and initiated several projects intended to bring operations into harmony with the EU *acquis communautaire*. EU-funded capacity development projects for judicial sciences were completed in Adana, Diyarbakır and İzmir. Several projects were also initiated by the Directorate such as the Security Department Law Enforcement Services, the Missing Person Alarm System, or the Media Monitoring System. Except for logistical matters and work conditions, all major departments of the directorate achieved their performance objectives in the year 2014.

In 2010, the Undersecretariat of Public Order and Safety was established to develop policies and strategies to combat terrorism and to coordinate among the relevant institutions and agencies. As of the end of 2014, a total of 96 personnel were employed by the undersecretariat. Several national and international activities including surveys, publications on resolving the Kurdish issue were conducted in particular. The number of special security service companies reached 1,330 in 2014,

and 233,457 people were employed in this sector by the end of 2014.

As a reaction to mass demonstrations, a controversial “domestic security” bill (Law No. 6638) amending the Law No. 2559 on the Duties and Powers of Police was adopted by parliament in March 2015. As a result, police chiefs can now order that a person, their belongings and private vehicle be searched if they have obtained the written or oral permission of administrative chiefs.

Many observers argue that Turkey needs a holistic, integrated and well-coordinated and centralized domestic security policy. This need, however, is challenged by the subsequent state of emergency and dismissal of thousands of staff in the security apparatus following the July 2016 failed coup attempt.

Citation:

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Mexico

Score 2

Mexico has been among the most dangerous countries in the world and 2016 showed no substantial improvements. The main reason for this high homicide rate is that Mexico has become a major center for the transit of illegal drugs to the United States. In brutal competition with each other, Mexico’s criminal gangs, or cartels, have carried out horrific acts and killed thousands. Moreover, violence has become more and more intertwined with local, regional and national politics. From a regional perspective, Mexico has only a slightly lower homicide rate than Honduras and Venezuela.

In 2006, then-incoming National Action Party President Calderon made the so-called war on drugs a policy priority. However, the murder rate has increased since 2006. The reasons for this increase are complex and cannot all be blamed on the government. But Calderon’s anti-drug policy clearly did not succeed. President Peña Nieto initially criticized the Calderon government for relying too much on force in dealing with the drug problem, but it is far from clear that the current administration is doing any better. Mexico has improved the bureaucratic efficiency of some of its crime-fighting operations, but there are still huge problems. These problems include

a lack of bureaucratic cooperation, rampant corruption within the security apparatus, the immense scale of criminal activity in Mexico and the infiltration of law enforcement agencies by organized crime. Thus, one can say that internal security policy does not effectively protect citizens. This explains the proliferation of self-defense groups throughout the country and lack of trust in the authorities, which are especially at the local level sometimes deeply infiltrated by organized crime.

More worrying still, the judicial system is not designed to convict powerful and wealthy criminals. It is too difficult to convict criminal suspects in Mexico who can afford wealthy lawyers. It is probably too early to evaluate President Peña Nieto's performance on internal security-related issues, but the murder rate remains high and several public scandals have damaged public confidence in the authorities. These scandals include prison escapes by high-profile criminals and unexplained massacres in rural areas. In at least part of its territory, Mexico is a failed state.

In an attempt to decriminalize marijuana and after intense domestic debate, Mexico's senate voted in late 2016 in favor of a more liberal use of cannabis. This, together with liberalization policies in some U.S. states, may have some impact on the activity of drug gangs but will not put an end to drug trafficking-related violence.

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