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Mapping the Criminological Landscape of the Balkans

A Survey on Criminology and Crime with an
Expedition into the Criminal Landscape of the Balkans

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For the first time, this volume brings together experts in the fields of criminology, criminal law and criminal justice from across the Balkans, to discuss the state of the art of criminology and current crime trends in a region that has thus far largely been neglected by European criminological research.

The first chapter analytically describes and defines the Balkan region, not only as a unique historical region, but also as a religious and legal territory, as well as a region of migration and violence and a criminological region *sui generis*. These facts are used to explore and promote the likely benefits of a coherent regional criminological research approach – with the long-term goal of creating a sustainable ›criminological landscape‹. Contributions from all members of the Balkan Criminology Network provide an in-depth overview of facts and background information about criminological education and research and data about crime, general crime trends, and current crime and criminal justice challenges. The final chapter presents selected research projects from the actual research agenda of the Max Planck Partner Group for Balkan Criminology (MPPG).

This selection makes the book an essential reader for anyone interested in the current criminological setting of the Balkans and an excellent starting point for regional or country specific crime research.

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About the Series MPPG

The Max-Planck Partner Group for Balkan Criminology (MPPG) is a Zagreb-based research division jointly established by the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg (MPI) and the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Law. It is headed by Assist. Prof. Dr. *Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac*. The MPPG promotes, conducts and facilitates scientific research in the field of criminology and criminal justice and hosts the Balkan Criminology Network.

The MPPG's current research programme focuses on three main research areas, specifically targeting criminal phenomena that are of particular relevance to the Balkan region, or that may threaten its future security and stability: I. Violence, Organized Crime and Illegal Markets; II. Feelings and Perceptions of (In)Security and Crime; III. International Sentencing.

The MPPG's main goals are to foster criminological research on Balkan-relevant topics including the dissemination of findings to the broader scientific community, capacity building for young academics from the region through training and PhD research, creation of a sustainable network of criminological experts throughout the Balkans, and positioning Balkan Criminology in the European research area and beyond. The Balkan Criminology publication series provides a forum for the presentation of the MPPG's scientific output; it also connects the research potential present in the Balkans with the research agenda of the MPI, thereby ensuring cutting edge criminological research of the highest quality.