

*Reana Bezić*

## Juvenile Delinquency in the Balkans

Research Series of the Max Planck Institute  
for Foreign and International Criminal Law

**Publications of the Max Planck  
Partner Group for Balkan Criminology**

Edited by Hans-Jörg Albrecht  
& Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac

Volume BC 6



Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches  
und internationales Strafrecht

Reana Bezić

# Juvenile Delinquency in the Balkans

A Regional Comparative Analysis  
Based on the ISRD3 Study Findings



Duncker & Humblot • Berlin

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie;  
detailed bibliographic data are available on the internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>

All rights reserved

© 2020 Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science e.V.  
c/o Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law  
Günterstalstr. 73, 79100 Freiburg i.Br., Germany  
[www.mpicc.de](http://www.mpicc.de)

Sales and distribution together with Duncker & Humblot GmbH, Berlin, Germany  
[www.duncker-humblot.de](http://www.duncker-humblot.de)

University of Zagreb – Faculty of Law, Trg Republike Hrvatske 14, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
[www.pravo.unizg.hr](http://www.pravo.unizg.hr)

International Review:

Prof. Dr. Marcelo Aebi, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Cover picture: Nezavisni Kalesijski Portal [www.PNK.ba](http://www.PNK.ba)

Portrait picture: Foto Vilić

Text editing and typesetting: Peter Welk (Lektorat Freiburg)

Printing: Stückle Druck und Verlag, Stücklestr. 1, 77955 Ettenheim, Germany

Printed in Germany

ISSN 2199-658X

ISBN 978-3-86113-281-3 (Max Planck Institute)

ISBN 978-3-428-15995-6 (Duncker & Humblot)

ISBN 978-953-270-141-8 (Zagreb Faculty of Law)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30709/978-3-86113-281-3>

CC-Lizenz by-nc-nd/3.0

# Table of Contents

Foreword.....	VII
Acknowledgements.....	IX
Table of Contents.....	XI
List of Figures and Charts.....	XV
List of Tables.....	XVII
<b>Chapter 1</b>	
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 2</b>	
<b>Self-Reported (Juvenile) Delinquency – A Research Summary.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.1 Self-Report Research.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1.1 The evolution and use of self-report delinquency research.....	5
2.1.2 Impact of self-report studies on crime theory.....	8
2.1.3 Introduction of self-report research in Europe.....	10
2.1.4 Cross-national research based on the self-report method.....	15
2.1.5 Self-report methodology in longitudinal studies.....	17
<b>2.2 Main Findings of Self-Report Research.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>2.3 Self-Report Research in the Balkans.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Chapter 3</b>	
<b>Research Questions.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>3.1 Phenomenology: Differences in the Extent and Nature of Juvenile Crime in the Balkans.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>3.2 Aetiology: Causes of Juvenile Delinquency in the Balkans.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>3.3 Cross-National Comparison between Countries from the Balkans and Western Europe.....</b>	<b>36</b>

<b>Chapter 4</b>	
<b>Methodology</b> .....	39
<b>4.1 Comparative Research Methodology</b> .....	39
<b>4.2 Sampling</b> .....	41
4.2.1 City-based and national sampling design.....	42
4.2.2 School-based survey.....	44
<b>4.3 The ISRD3 Measurement Instrument</b> .....	49
4.3.1 The ISRD3 questionnaire.....	49
4.3.1.1 Delinquency module.....	50
4.3.1.2 Drug use.....	52
4.3.1.3 Alcohol use.....	53
4.3.1.4 Social-economic status.....	53
4.3.1.5 Migrant status.....	55
4.3.1.6 Religion.....	55
4.3.1.7 Family.....	56
4.3.1.8 School.....	57
4.3.2 Validity of self-report surveys in the Balkans.....	58
<b>4.4 Statistics</b> .....	61
<b>Chapter 5</b>	
<b>Findings</b> .....	63
<b>5.1 Descriptive Statistics</b> .....	63
5.1.1 Sample characteristics.....	63
5.1.2 Prevalence of juvenile delinquency in the Balkans.....	66
5.1.3 Different types of juvenile delinquency in the Balkans.....	71
5.1.4 Versatility.....	75
5.1.5 Gender.....	77
5.1.6 Age.....	80
5.1.7 Substance use.....	83
5.1.8 Juvenile victimization.....	88
<b>5.2 Indicators of Juvenile Delinquency in the Balkan Region</b> .....	92
5.2.1 Impact of the family on juvenile delinquency.....	92
5.2.1.1 Family control & family attachment.....	92
5.2.1.2 Parental control impact on juvenile delinquency.....	94
5.2.1.3 Parental attachment impact on juvenile delinquency.....	97
5.2.1.4 Family structure.....	101
5.2.1.5 Multivariate regression of family-related variables.....	106
5.2.2 Impact of the economy on juvenile delinquency.....	109

5.2.2.1	Economy in the Balkan region .....	111
5.2.2.2	Unemployment rates among young people/families in the Balkan region .....	112
5.2.2.3	Maternal employment and juvenile delinquency .....	115
5.2.2.4	Multivariate regression of economy-related variables .....	115
5.2.3	Impact of the school on juvenile delinquency .....	120
5.2.3.1	Education systems in the Balkan region .....	121
5.2.3.2	School functioning and bonding .....	121
5.2.3.3	Multivariate regression of school-related variables.....	125
5.2.4	Impact of religion on juvenile delinquency .....	130
5.2.4.1	Religion affiliation, religiosity, and juvenile delinquency .....	133
5.2.4.2	Multivariate regression of school-related variables .....	136
<b>Chapter 6</b>		
	<b>Conclusion</b> .....	139
6.1	<b>Descriptive Statistics</b> .....	139
6.2	<b>Explaining Juvenile Crime in the Balkans</b> .....	141
<b>Chapter 7</b>		
	<b>Summary</b> .....	147
7.1	<b>Overview of the Study</b> .....	147
7.2	<b>Main Research Findings</b> .....	148
7.3	<b>Future Fields of Research</b> .....	151
	<b>References</b> .....	153
	<b>Appendix: Questionnaire</b> .....	177